

## Girlfriend of boro arsonist avoids jail time

BY TOM MOMBERG

A Queens woman who was charged last year with assisting her ex-con boyfriend in allegedly throwing a Molotov cocktail inside his friend's Little Neck home is walking free after striking a plea deal on a lesser charge with prosecutors Tuesday, the Queens district attorney said.

Alexandra Flaherty, now 24, was charged with arson in August 2014 when it was alleged she had driven Ezra Barashy, 26, to the house on 60th Avenue in which he tossed the explosive to set it on fire, the DA said.

Flaherty was given a chance to enter a residential treatment facility for her narcotics addiction after pleading guilty to fourth-degree criminal facilitation in February, according to the district attorney's office.

Flaherty was sentenced Tuesday to an adjournment in contemplation of dismissal, or ACD, by pleading guilty to a misdemeanor at Queens Criminal Court, following her successful completion of the residency program, according to the DA's office.

If Flaherty had failed to  
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# Deal signed for high school

## Bayside Jewish Center quietly agrees to DOE project on site

BY MADINA TOURE

Community Board 11 expressed disappointment Tuesday over not being immediately informed of a contract that the Bayside Jewish Center signed with the School Construction Authority to build a high school on its property.

In May, the SCA announced that it was finalizing its purchase of the site, located at 203-05 32nd Ave.

The Bayside Jewish Center could not be reached for comment.

CB 11 Chairwoman Christine Haider said she learned Tuesday afternoon that the contract was signed and that she did not receive the Sept. 3 press release in which state Sen. Tony Avella (D-Bayside) discussed it.

"We have been monitoring this almost on a daily basis with the board office to find out what has been happening and I was very, very shocked that we were not informed that it had been signed only this afternoon," Haider said.

The SCA has said it would conduct a traffic study and the required environmental impact study to address community concerns about the project creating traffic congestion since it is close to Bayside HS  
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## LOVE MATCH



Serena Williams (l) and sister Venus embrace at the end of their epic quarter-final match at the US Open in Flushing, perhaps the most talked-about showdown of the entire tournament. Serena won 6-2, 1-6, 6-3.

Photo by Robert Cole

## A saint helps refugees in Astoria

BY BILL PARRY

With the refugee drama unfolding in Europe, Astoria resident Maria Blacque-Belair is doing remarkable things with asylum seekers here in Queens. Her organization has a special program at the

Brooklyn Grange rooftop farm in Long Island City.

"It's really heartwarming," Blacque-Belair said.

Frank "Turtle" Raffaele purchases produce from the farm for his Coffeed restaurants and has witnessed the amazing transformations.

"They are the happiest people on the farm, amazing considering what they've been through," he said. "They call her Mama Maria."

See story on Page 5.

# 109 Pct. goes digital

NYPD wins award for social media engagement efforts



The NYPD is testing its new social media program in the 109th Precinct.

Twitter

BY MADINA TOURE

The NYPD has received a "Best of New York" award for its social media campaign, whose pilot program started in the 109th Precinct.

The Center for Digital Government gave the Police Department the "Most Innovative Use of Social Media/Citizen Engagement" award for the NYPD's IdeaScale website, [nypd.ideascale.com](http://nypd.ideascale.com), a web-based platform that crowdsources the quality-of-life agenda so the department can keep track of problems occurring in the community.

Due to what the department has learned through the platform, it has been able to pinpoint and resolve previously unknown issues as well as better use its resources and preventative measures.

In April, the NYPD launched the campaign at the 109th Precinct's monthly

council meeting at the Police Academy in College Point. The program seeks to follow quality-of-life issues, including graffiti, excessive noise, speeding, double-parked cars and truck traffic.

The website currently has about 1,600 users, according to Chrissy Voskerichian, president of the 109th Precinct Community Council.

The precinct has active Facebook and Twitter accounts in which it regularly gives residents updates about crimes occurring in the area.

Voskerichian said Inspector Thomas Corfati has taken a lead on social media in the precinct, noting that he would learn of the issues in the area on IdeaScale "within seconds" and take action.

"I think that's why we were chosen to be a pilot," Voskerichian said. "I think he just put a lot of time and effort into ensuring that it was going to be

a program that worked for the community and gave them a way to report their quality-of-life issues instantaneously."

The Police Department also received the "Best Application Serving the Public" award for the Emergency Service Unit—Mobile Computer Assisted Dispatch system, which enables emergency information to be available to first responders in near real time.

Three additional precincts are now using the IdeaScale platform and there are plans to expand it further in the Police Department. Future plans to enhance the platform to make it more interactive will be announced by the end of the year.

Reach reporter Madina Toure by e-mail at [mtoure@cnglocal.com](mailto:mtoure@cnglocal.com) or by phone at (718) 260-4566.

# Briarwood resident collects \$7M lottery

BY MADINA TOURE

A Briarwood man is now going to be receiving \$1,000 a day for the rest of his life after winning the New York Lottery's Cash4Life prize.

Manuel Moreira, 50, a hotel union worker, won \$7 million from the Aug. 17 Cash4Life drawing, according to the New York State Gaming Commission.

Moreira said that on the day of the drawing, he went to Concord Drug Pharmacy at 138-50 84th Drive in Briarwood after work to purchase his tickets. He plays the Cash4Life game regularly and picks his own numbers using a combination of his and his family's birthdays. Before going to work the next day, he checked his numbers on the New York Lottery website.

"I didn't believe what I was seeing," Moreira said in a statement. "I was in a panic. I woke up my wife and she saw how panicked I was and thought someone had broken into our house."

It was only when he went to the Manhattan Lottery Customer Service Center that he believed and realized how much money he had won.

"At first, I really didn't believe that I had won \$7 million," he added. "But then

when I got to the Lottery office and they verified it for me, it started to sink in. I'm really still in shock."

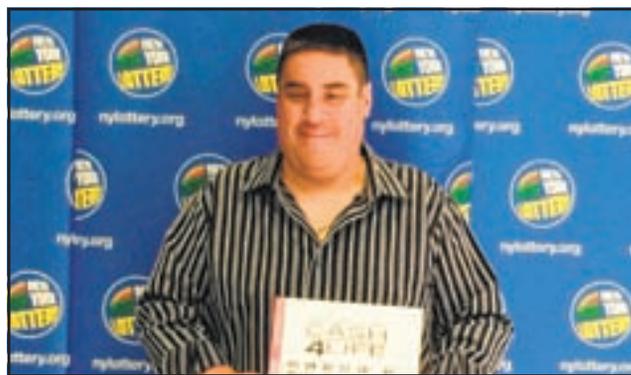
Moreira chose to receive the money as a one-time lump sum payment, netting him \$4,361,280, the New York State Gaming Commission said. He plans to use the money to take care of his children, grandchildren and family and possibly start finding a new home.

"This really is a dream come true," Moreira said.

Carolyn Hapeman, a spokeswoman for New York Lottery, said the Cash4Life is a well-liked game.

"In terms of the game itself, he won probably one of the most popular games that the lottery sells right now," Hapeman said. "It's the only game that features two Cash4Life prizes, including the one that Mr. Moreira won on, which guarantees \$1,000 a day for life. The second prize is \$1,000 a week for life."

A chef from Brooklyn won the top prize of \$5,000 a week for life on the Set For Life scratch-off game at the Aug. 17 drawing and a maintenance man from the Bronx won the \$3 million jackpot on the scratch-off game Instant Millionaire.



A Briarwood man claimed a \$7 million prize from the New York Lottery. Courtesy of NYS Gaming Commission

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# Benefit raises funds for young tennis players

BY VALERIE VICTOR

The City Parks Foundation put the goal of raising funds for the free youth instructional program CityParks Tennis front and center at its 18th annual Tennis Benefit at the US Open Tennis Championships last week.

“We’re providing free equipment and free lessons to kids who may not have access to things like that, and whether or not they become ranked tennis players is not what we’re interested in” said Heather Lubov, City Parks Foundation Executive Director. According to Lubov, the foundation’s goal was to raise \$250,000 by the night’s end. However, the Tennis Benefit topped that projected figure, raising \$255,000.

Funds raised for the City Parks Foundation are used to serve over 6,000 children in parks throughout New York City every season. The foundation is one of the largest municipal tennis programs in the



Heather Lubov, executive director of the City Parks Foundation

Photo by Valerie Victor

country, providing services in over 36 parks across all five boroughs to kids from six to 16. The foundation also runs a training academy.

In addition to raising funds,

the event honored a series of guests including Steve Owens, head pro at the Pleasantville Tennis Club; Todd Martin, International Tennis Hall of Fame CEO; and Christopher



Young tennis player Christopher Rodriguez gets emotional after receiving an award from the foundation.

Photo by Valerie Victor

Rodriguez, a CityParks Tennis youth player from Jackson Heights.

Rodriguez, 16, was presented with the Billie Jean King Junior Award. Accepting his award, he spoke about his great appreciation for CityParks Tennis, his personal struggles and his mother’s health battles.

“I don’t know where I would be without this program,” said Rodriguez. After being hon-

ored for his hard work, he was given an all-expense-paid trip, including full airfare from Delta Airlines, to Florida to attend tennis camp.

The City Parks mission is to do for many children what they were able to do for Rodriguez. “What we want is to just have kids develop a love for tennis, grow their self-esteem and really feel special,” Lubov said.

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# Back to Ground Zero

## Ailing 9/11 first responders want Zadroga Act saved

BY BILL PARRY



Joe Zadroga vows to go to Washington and meet with any lawmaker who is against extending the Zadroga Act, named for his son.

Photo by Bill Parry

A 9/11 first responder from Middle Village and a survivor from Flushing, both suffering the effects of cancer, went back to Ground Zero to call on Congress to reauthorize the Zadroga Act, and make it permanent. The law, which provides health care and compensation to those with 9/11-related illnesses, is slated to expire next year.

“These men and women are the heroes of 9/11 and they shouldn’t have to come to Congress to beg for their lives,” U.S. Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-Astoria) said. “They’ve endured chemotherapy, daily asthma attacks, permanent disabilities, post-traumatic stress and other terrible illnesses. They live with the consequences daily.”

Former NYPD Det. Joseph Ramondino, 53, of Middle Village has battled two cancers since retiring in 2004 and endured multiple surgeries and treatments.

“It’s not about me because I’m not terminal like some of these other folks,” he said. “The program worked for me. I’m OK, but many are not and those are the people that this is about, the ones who are sick now and will be sick in the coming years. Extending the

Zadroga Act and making it permanent is the right thing to do regardless of politics.”

Flushing resident Patricia Workman, 77, went to work as a volunteer for the Red Cross, the Salvation Army and Port Authority caring for the workers who came off the pile week after week. “When I first got down there, there was this white powder on every building, on every floor. When the workers came off the pile, they were covered in that dust day after day,” she said. “Nobody

wore masks because the feds said the air was safe.”

But it wasn’t. More than 33,000 9/11 responders as well as survivors of the attacks, including area residents, workers and children, have illnesses caused by breathing in the toxic dust, and over two-thirds of those have more than one illness.

So far, 4,385 cancers have been found among 9/11 responders and survivors, according to data from the

*Continued on Page 55*

# Black women’s group starts voting initiative

BY MADINA TOURE

The Flushing chapter of the National Congress of Black Women is looking to recruit area high school students to educate people on how to vote.

In June, three chapter members—Maxine Gallmon, Mireilli Leroy and Farida Daughtry—went to Flushing HS, Jamaica HS and Townsend Harris HS where they handed out voter registration forms from the main voter registration office in Manhattan and gave students an opportunity to volunteer. Their target is juniors and seniors but they are also looking for students who are interested in politics, political science or advocacy work.

Daughtry, the chapter’s northeast Queens representative, said they plan to return to the three schools in October and recruit any students who expressed interest in volunteering to go around the district and inform people about the voting process.

She noted that District 25 has a large immigrant population and that families end up relying on their children, who learn English more quickly.

“What we’re trying to do is encourage the upper level children to talk to their parents about the importance of voting,” Daughtry said.

The three schools were chosen because they were convenient for the members as far as their connection to the school or location. Also, by starting small, they can

see how the initiative rolls out before expanding the program.

“We emphasized we were not about any particular party or interest instead giving these young people who are now entering the world of self-reliance, that they have the opportunity to register to vote,” Pauline Murray, the chapter’s president and eastern Queens representative, said. “My understanding is that the schools were very receptive to that request.”

When they go back to the schools in October, they will have voter registration forms available in English, Korean, Chinese and Mandarin.

The organization, which currently has 12 members, has other projects in the works, some of which have already been implemented.

A proposal for a recycling business that would employ formerly incarcerated individuals is still in the pre-planning stages, Murray said.

The chapter is continuing to run a food cooperative program with Long Life Unity Food Buyers Collective in Brooklyn.

The organization also continues to support the Macedonia A.M.E. Church’s Healing Hearts Ministry, a support group for incarcerated individuals or family members of those who have been imprisoned or are still imprisoned.

Reach reporter Madina Toure by e-mail at [mtoure@cnglocal.com](mailto:mtoure@cnglocal.com) or by phone at (718) 260-4566.

# Bus drivers secure in safety law

BY MADINA TOURE



Bus drivers no longer have to worry about arrests for accidents in crosswalks that do not involve recklessness.

Photo by Michael Shain

A settlement between the Transport Workers Union Local 100 and the city clarifies that bus drivers will not be criminally charged in pedestrian crosswalk accidents if they did not act recklessly.

In June 2014, Mayor Bill de Blasio signed into law a right-of-way provision that raised a traffic violation—failure to yield to a pedestrian or bicyclist in a crosswalk—to a criminal misdemeanor when a driver fails to exercise “due care” and a pedestrian or bicyclist is injured. The misdemeanor carries a possible fine of up to \$250 and 30 days in jail.

TWU argued that the provision does not define “due care”

rested and charged between September 2014 and this February.

“This settlement safeguards all bus operators and other transit workers who drive MTA motor vehicles from arrest if involved in an accident lacking recklessness,” John Samuelson, TWU’s president, said.

The settlement specifies that before prosecuting drivers, officers have to prove that a driver acted carelessly. The city also said it would consider blind spots in buses.

In March, City Councilman I. Daneek Miller (D-St. Albans), a former MTA bus operator and union member, introduced a bill calling for city bus operators to be exempt

*Continued on Page 62*



The Flushing chapter of the National Congress of Black Women is trying to encourage more young people to vote.

Photo courtesy of Dr. E. Faye Williams

# Astoria group helps asylum seekers

RIF uses Brooklyn Grange rooftop farm in LIC to psychologically soothe traumatized refugees

BY BILL PARRY

The image of 3-year-old Syrian refugee Aylan Kurdi lying face down and dead in the surf at a Turkish beach resort is now seared on the world's conscience, a tragic symbol of a massive worldwide displacement of population. Wars, conflict and persecution have forced more than 60 million people, more than at any time since 1949 when the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees began keeping records, to flee their homes and seek refuge and safety elsewhere, according to a report from the U.N. refugee agency.

Globally, one in every 10 humans is now either a refugee, internally displaced, or seeking asylum. If this were the population of a country, it would be the world's 24th biggest.

"It's the most displaced since World War II," Refugee and Immigrant Fund Program Manager Ellie Alter said. "We're glad people are talking about it, but people don't have a choice but to open their eyes and ears to what's happening. The situation is dire."

Refugee and Immigrant Fund is an Astoria-based nonprofit founded by longtime Doctors Without Borders consultant Maria Blacque-Belair. After a decade working in different war zones and humanitarian crises around the



The Urban Farm Project helps RIF clients get their minds off the stress of the asylum process while learning a new skill.

Photo courtesy Loriz Guzzetta

world, Blacque-Belair decided to specialize in war trauma and went to NYU to study social work.

She then went to work for Safe Horizon, a community-based organization in Jackson Heights, in a program called Solace, for survivors of torture. "While I was there, I

realized that there was a lot of asylum seekers coming to the country, and to New York especially, but there was no sort of entry point for them," Blacque-Belair said.

And so she started RIF in the summer of 2007 in the garage of her own home at 32-13 37th St. in Astoria.

"It started as an asylum orientation center," Blacque-Belair said. "We gave clients individual orientations and information about the asylum process, because it's very complex and difficult to understand, so we tried to make it user friendly. People would come and we just sat with them and gave them a certain road map of what they needed to do."

RIF provides references for pro bono lawyers and forensic psychological evaluations for the immigration court and psychological counseling.

"People are usually very upset and traumatized and they need to have someone to talk to," she said.

They came from Africa, Pakistan, Central and South America, Cuba and Haiti.

"Many are doctors, lawyers and engineers, but cultural differences don't allow them to assimilate to the American job environment," Alter said. "Many of them endured torture and suffered psychological effects. We've had some women who were traumatized by genital mutilation."

On a 2010 visit to the Brooklyn Grange, the world's largest rooftop soil farm atop the Stan-

dard Motor Parts building, located at 32-13 37th St. in Long Island City, Blacque-Belair was inspired by what she saw. She approached the founder and creator of the farm, Ben Flanner, and they developed a new program for the asylum seekers.

"The idea at the beginning was really to have RIF's clients go there mostly for therapeutic purposes," Blacque-Belair said. "To have an outdoor space, a friendly space, a way to be productive and think about something other than the stress of the asylum process, which is horrible. That's how it started."

Now it is called the Urban Farm Project. Each season 10 to 15 asylum seekers take part in a paid fellowship in Urban Agriculture, learning as they farm.

"They think at the beginning it's a little crazy, especially when they come in March and it's still snowing," Blacque-Belair said. "Over time they begin to take it more seriously and actually start to realize that it's a really interesting place."

Alter sees them change over time.

*Continued on Page 55*



The Urban Farm Project helps RIF clients get their minds off the stress of the asylum process while learning a new skill.

Photo courtesy Loriz Guzzetta



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# Boro subway stations worst in city: Study

BY BILL PARRY

The beleaguered No. 7 subway line's 52nd Street subway station in Woodside/Sunnyside is being called the worst in the city, based on a report issued last week by the Citizens Budget Commission.

The grim study identifies the 33 stations in the worst condition, nearly half of which are in Queens. Six of the 10 worst stations are in the borough.

The MTA defended its spending priorities and a spokesman said, "Keep in mind that no other system in the world comes close to the number of stations we have in our system." The report studied the infrastructure of the 467 subway stations citywide and the MTA's system for repairing them, using a "components" approach that identifies and rates two categories: Architectural and Structural. Architectural includes appearance such as tiles and paint, while structural relates to functionality such as stairs and platform edges.

Of the 29 components at the 52nd Street station, 23 were deemed in need of repair, a whopping 79 percent that puts it at the top of the commission's worst stations list.

"I've been using this station for more than 20 years and I've seen it decline steadily," Woodside resident Christine Bellington said. "It's never made me feel unsafe, though. I grew up in Rockaway and the A train is terrible."

The 52nd Street station serves 2.2 million riders a year. The 103rd Street-Corona Plaza station on the No. 7 line was ranked fifth in the study. Over on the J line, 85th St-Forest Parkway finished second-worst in the city.

Three stations on the Astoria line made the list with 30th Avenue in fourth place, 36th Avenue in seventh and Woodhaven Boulevard in eighth. Astoria Boulevard in 11th place.

"The MTA has failed to recognize the rapid growth of our neighborhoods, and our infrastructure is not keeping pace," state Sen. Michael Gianaris (D-Astoria) said. "I will continue to push to drastically improve train performance until all stations reach a good state of repair."

The prospects for bringing all stations to a state of good repair are dim, according to the commission's report.

"Even if the proposed five-year capital plan for 2015-2019 were fully funded—which it is not—the MTA's current and planned pace of work would never bring all to SGR," or state of good repair, the report said. "At this pace of progress SGR for all station components would not be achieved until 2067."



The Woodside/Sunnyside 52nd Street subway station is named the worst in New York City in a study released last week.

Photo by Bill Parry

To accelerate the pace, the commission recommends the MTA prioritize SGR work. "Shifting funds allocated for the next phase of the Second Avenue subway to station investments would cover 85 percent of the cost to bring all stations to a state of good repair in 30 years, it said.

By improving project management, more could be accomplished if projects were better managed to avoid cost overruns. It also suggested the MTA make effective use of public-private partnerships by borrowing from the city Parks model in establishing parks conservancies and tapping nonprofit organizations to marshal resources to rehabilitate and maintain stations on an ongoing basis.

"We respectfully disagree with their recommendation to reduce spending on expansion projects," MTA spokesman Kevin Ortiz said. "At a time when growing ridership is leading to crowding and delays, we must pursue expansion projects that will accommodate more customers as well as provide new connection and opportunities for our customers."

Ortiz pointed out that 17 percent of the MTA's nearly \$3 billion proposed capital plan deals with station work aggressively.

"However, as you know, our proposed program is underfunded, to a great extent because the city has not responded to this growing need and increased contribution."

Ortiz also took issue with the commission's claim that the MTA is ignoring Queens.

"Not true," he said. "We have recently invested millions for stations in Queens—Court Square, 71st Avenue, and 10 stations in the Rockaways. Work is currently planned for stations along the Astoria Boulevard line. This is all on top of the hundreds of millions of dollars we're investing for CBTC, the new signal system we're installing on the 7 line and Queens Boulevard line."

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# Boro kids get less of everything

Large schools generally receive smaller funds per pupil than schools with fewer students

BY SADEF ALI KULLY

As New York public schools open their doors to students, funding per student in Queens remains tight, much like the borough's crowded school buildings, according to a report released Tuesday by the city's Independent Budget Office.

The report focused on the public school budgets per student across the city's districts and boroughs.

Schools in Queens receive, on average, \$1,310 less per pupil than schools in the Bronx, which receives \$8,902 per student.

Citywide, per-pupil allocations go from a high average of \$8,255 in districts such as in Brooklyn's Education District 16 to a low average of \$3,800 in Corona and/or Elmhurst Educational District 24.

The largest per-pupil allocations are found in District 7 in the South Bronx; District 16 in central Brooklyn; Districts

4 and 5 in upper Manhattan; and District 1 in the Lower East Side.

The lowest per student allocations are found in Districts 24, 25 and 26 in Queens and District 2 in Manhattan.

IBO is a publicly funded city agency that provides non-partisan information about the city's budget to the public and their elected officials.

IBO said in the report, "This variation is not unexpected. Per-pupil spending is a function of school size, with large schools generally receiving less funding per pupil than schools with fewer students."

Queens, with the largest average school size, had the lowest per-pupil allocations, while Manhattan and the Bronx, with the two smallest average school sizes, had the two largest per-pupil allocations.

The variation comes despite the approval of over 38,000 new seats citywide in coming years as part of the city's capital education budget plan, which is



The lowest per-student allocations are found in Districts 24, 25 and 26 in Queens and District 2 in Manhattan, according to the Independent Budget Office.

estimated at \$13.5 billion.

The Department of Education acknowledged that schools citywide are overcrowded by 44 percent during a City Council hearing in March.

Leonie Hamison, an advocate of making classroom sizes

smaller and head of the education advocacy group Class Size Matters, said despite the DOE promising to end trailers and create more seats, nothing has changed.

"They promised to replace the seats—half a billion dollars

and nothing is being done," she said. "I am concerned. The schools are getting more overcrowded."

Hamison added, "They are adding new trailers in Forest Hills schools."

In a radio interview on NPR's Brian Lehrer Show, School Chancellor Carmen Fariña said nine new schools are currently in the process of being zoned but were constructed to alleviate some of the overcrowding.

Four of the schools are in Queens: PS 349 and MS 249 on 164th Street in Jamaica Hills; PS 360 on 112th Avenue in St. Albans; and PS 361 on 39th Avenue in Woodside.

The new schools will not be enough, according to Class Size Matters, which projected in a 2014 report an estimated 70 percent student increase over the next ten years would require 100,000 seats in the city's capital education budget plan.



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# Black real estate giant sets sights on Queens

BY MADINA TOURE

Possible mayoral candidate Don Peebles, head of one of the largest black-owned development companies in the United States, has his eye on Queens for future developments.

The Peebles Corporation, which specializes in mixed-use developments, has been looking at sites in Flushing and Long Island City and sees opportunity in Jamaica. Peebles especially wants to develop hotels near LaGuardia Airport once the \$4 billion terminal renovation is complete.

The company has completed and current multibillion-dollar developments in New York, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C., Boston, San Francisco, Miami and Miami Beach.

He is eyeing the hospital-ity sector near LaGuardia and in Queens overall—a borough he says is often ignored for development.

“I think that Jamaica and Queens as a whole have been somewhat overlooked for economic development and, of course, with the great diversity of the community ... the geographic location is ripe for significant economic expansion, for workforce housing,” Peebles said.

In 2013, the company was looking to build a 133-key select service hotel, along



DON PEBBLES

with 210,000 square feet of office space and 80 affordable housing units on Jamaica Avenue.

The request for proposal was issued by the EDC on behalf of the Greater Jamaica Development Corporation, but the project did not move forward.

His team was awarded the rights to build a gaming and mixed-use development at the Aqueduct Race Track in 2008, but the company's investment bank, JP Morgan, pulled back the proposal and reissued it following the financial crisis. The corporation did not rebid.

Peebles criticized then-Gov. David Paterson for not pushing for a minority-owned firm from New York City, noting that the Genting Group, a Malaysian company, was selected for Aqueduct.

The entrepreneur is considering running for mayor, expressing reservations about the performance of Mayor Bill de Blasio, whom he once supported.

An Upper West Side resident, Peebles has an apartment in downtown Manhattan, a townhouse on the Upper West Side and a home in Bridgehampton, N.Y. His corporation has an office in Coral Gables, Fla. and another on Fifth Avenue in the city.

He has concerns about the lack of contracts given out to minority- and women-owned businesses and enterprises, the mayor's comments about the Police Department and the state of public schools in the city.

He said the city could have gone further in its announcement that it would not appeal an appellate court ruling that the Willets West megamall could not proceed without state legislative approval because it would be built on parkland and benefits such as the affordable and market-rating houses would not be delivered in a timely manner and have no ironclad commitments.

The city should have asked for more participation

*Continued on Page 55*

# Concannon gears up

GOP contender hopes to capture Mark Weprin's Council seat

BY TOM MOMBERG

Joe Concannon, the Republican contender in the race for the eastern Queens City Council seat vacated by Mark Weprin, said he was eagerly waiting to see who his Democratic opponent will be following the primary election on Sept. 10.

Whoever that turned out to be, he said he knows the experience he can offer is unmatched by any of those six Democratic candidates in representing the district that covers Bayside Hills, Glen Oaks, Floral Park, Bellerose and parts of Queens Village.

“I understand, because I have been on the front lines of a lot of need in a lot of different communities across this city,” Concannon said in an interview with the TimesLedger Newspapers. “I have worked in every borough—and in every rat hole this city has



JOE CONCANNON

developed—but if you want to talk about experience in solving problems in this city, those (candidates) have no idea the dimensions of

problems there are and what can happen to families and individuals.”

Concannon said those needs are different in every corner of the city, and in each part of each neighborhood in the Council district he wants to represent. He said as a retired NYPD commander he can best recognize that range in issues.

The GOP candidate who is also a U.S. Air Force veteran and community activist, said one of the most disappointing parts of the election occurred at the very beginning, when the city chose not to hold a special election to fill the seat soon after Weprin left for an appointed position in the governor's office in May. Though Weprin's office has still been open for constituent services, Concannon said the communication from his office for those services before he left office, along with public of-

fices around the city, has been lacking.

Concannon said there are two major concerns he would want to address if elected: “I think constituent services is top priority—it should be for any elected official ... I'm also not happy with the 16 percent increase in crime in the 105th Precinct. I would want to work with the local commander and borough commander to see what they think their needs are.”

Concannon said the city has taken steps backward when it comes to crime prevention and policing, but that the resources are being put in place to improve the situation.

He said he believes strongly that “broken windows” policing is the best crime prevention work the NYPD can do—actively pursuing quality-of-life offenses such as public urination with tickets and/or jail time.

“This mayor doesn't know how to manage. If he wanted to change NYPD so much, there is a whole board of commissioners—make it your own. There is a whole board of

chiefs—make it your own.”

The GOP and Conservative Party-backed candidate, though retired from the NYPD, currently works with antivirus and Internet protection service Integra Security Systems. He said he used the knowledge he gained while working with the police on its central computer data system ComStat and with the FBI for 15 years to become entrepreneurial in a new security endeavor.

Concannon said he admires the police commissioner for his roll-out of the new policing model in Queens South that added more neighborhood police officers, data-driven models and more training, which he said is ideal for ensuring the safety of both officers and the people they work to protect.

Concannon is a Bellerose native and remains there today with his wife, with whom he has three children and two grandchildren. He has a master's degree in public administration from CUNY's John Jay College of Criminal Justice.



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# POLICE Blotter

## Fire breaks out in Flushing store: FDNY

FLUSHING — A fire broke out in the basement of a supermarket in Flushing late Wednesday morning, the FDNY said.

The Fire Department received a report of a manhole fire at about 10:51 a.m., according to an FDNY spokesman.

The manhole may be connected to the basement of the building of the H&Y Marketplace, located at 150-51 Northern Blvd., the spokesman said.

There were elevated carbon monoxide readings as high as 700 parts per million, but the sprinkler system activated and the fire was knocked down at about 12:19 p.m., the spokesman said.

Con Edison shut off the power and it was evaluating the air quality to make sure that people remain safe, the spokesman added.

There were no reported injuries and the FDNY was still actively working on the scene, he said.



A fire broke out in the basement of the H&Y Marketplace in Flushing Wednesday morning. Photo by Michael Shain

## Driver dies after plowing into cars: NYPD

COLLEGE POINT — A 56-year-old truck driver died after he struck parked vehicles in College Point Tuesday morning, the NYPD said.

Officers responded to a 911 call of a vehicle collision at 117-02 15th Ave. at about 10:45 a.m., according to the police.

A preliminary investigation found that the man, who was driving an international tractor trailer truck, was traveling eastbound on 15th Avenue when the vehicle hit three unoccupied parked vehicles before coming to a stop, officials said.

Officers found the driver unconscious and unresponsive, police said. He was taken to Booth Memorial Hospital where he was pronounced dead. His identity is pending family notification.

The medical examiner will determine the cause of death and an investigation by the NYPD's Highway Collision Investigation Squad is ongoing, a police spokeswoman said.

## Whitestone woman reported missing: Police

WHITESTONE — A Whitestone woman went missing over the weekend, according to the NYPD.

The woman, identified as Maria Brabazon, 55, was last seen Saturday at about 10 a.m. outside her home on 14th Avenue between 151st and Clintonville streets, police said.

She is 5-foot-5 tall, weighs 125 pounds and has blonde hair and blue eyes, officials said. She was last seen wearing black leggings and a white shirt.



MARIA BRABAZON

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# Bayside BID plans September full of events

Music at the station continues every Thursday as third-annual Sunday Stroll returns to Bell

BY TOM MOMBERG

Coming back from the holiday weekend, the Bayside Village Business Improvement District has planned a full month of music in addition to its third annual Sunday Stroll event on Bell Boulevard.

After the Music at the Station series wrapped up in August, BID Executive Director Lyle Sclair said it was so successful that the organization is continuing the local music series every Thursday in September. It continued with teachers from Vienna Music, who were slated to perform Thursday, Sept. 10.

"The bands love it and it's been pretty successful. The whole idea is to get people as they are coming off the train to stay down and have dinner on Bell Boulevard or to meet friends there," Sclair said. "We are hoping to bring back this same program again in spring with perhaps a little more diversity in the kinds of music."



Dancers perform as parents and spectators take pictures at the Sunday Stroll on Bell Boulevard in 2014.

The remaining performances in September are still tentative, but they are scheduled every Thursday at 5:30

just east of the Bayside Long Island Rail Road station at 213-00 41st Ave.

The Bayside BID is also

bringing back the Sunday Stroll, slated for its third year on Sunday, Sept. 27, from noon to 5 p.m. on Bell Boulevard be-

tween 39th and 41st avenues.

Family activities like a bounce house and dance lessons from the Queens Dance Project will return again this year, along with a full roster of musical performances. The winners of the Bayside Little League tournaments will also be recognized.

Otherwise, Sclair said family games and vendors will line Bell Boulevard again this year. He said full specifics are yet to be worked out, but the BID is encouraging businesses from around Bayside to participate.

"We are really trying to reach out to businesses past 39th and 41st avenues," Sclair said. "And we are still lining up to musicians, but we think this will be even bigger and better than last year."

For more information on these and other events as they come together, visit the BID's calendar online at <http://www.baysidevillagebid.com/news-events/calendar/>.



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# A LEGACY FOR 9/11

The 14th anniversary of the attacks on the Twin Towers still touches deep wounds in Queens, which lost more than 200 firefighters, police officers and working people to the carnage on Sept. 11.

Yes, the borough has moved on somewhat, remembering the fallen with street renamings, candlelight vigils and memorial events.

The memories are not as sharp with the passage of time until the anniversary comes around each year, however, and forces each of us to look back at the day that changed our lives and the world.

As the names of the dead are read every year at Ground Zero by the victims' families, the horror of that bright Tuesday morning returns. We think back to parents frantically searching for sons who worked in the Towers, borough triage centers waiting for the patients who never came and the unrelenting sounds of sirens blaring in the empty streets of Queens.

The toll was staggering for the borough.

Maspeth lost 19 firefighters in Squad 288 and Hazmet 1 out of the same firehouse.

A young Muslim from Bayside was at first thought to have been a terrorist when he disappeared on 9/11, but years later it was discovered that he had rushed to Ground Zero to volunteer—and died in the effort.

In Breezy Point in the Rockaways, 32 people perished at the World Trade Center. Many were firefighters.

But Mother Nature was forgiving. When Hurricane Sandy devastated Breezy Point, the violent winds and water spared the 9/11 memorial residents had built—a cross overlooking Jamaica Bay on the far west of the sandy spit.

There are thousands of stories that we tell to make sense of that terrible day, but too few have a happy ending, particularly for the 30,000 first responders who struggle with severe 9/11-related illnesses.

These are the people who rescued survivors from Ground Zero and inhaled toxic dust for months as they worked in the rubble to recover remains.

Last week about 50 responders from around the country rallied with U.S. Rep. Carolyn Maloney at Ground Zero, where she urged Congress to stop the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act from expiring. Zadroga was the first NYPD officer whose fatal respiratory illness was traced to the dust in the pile where the Twin Towers had stood.

As a nation we owe it to the people who sacrificed their lives saving others at the World Trade Center to provide permanent health coverage to their fellow responders who still struggle to get through each day.

This should be a key legacy of Sept. 11 as we count the anniversaries moving forward.



## OTHER VOICES

# Landmarking stifles homeowners

In its effort to obtain City Landmark status, the Broadway-Flushing Homeowners' Association is again asking the homeowners to express their support for landmark designation. This request disingenuously implies that homeowners have input and can participate in the landmarking process. According to the law, landmark designation is not the subject of a vote by the community or homeowners and notification to homeowners is not required.

In a response to my concerns regarding landmark designation, the Law Department of New York City apprised me that "a formal application process does not exist. The commission considers eligible buildings and districts for designation in response to

suggestions from many sources, including groups and individuals as well as the observations of commission members and staff. While the Landmarks Commission seeks and encourages community and property owners' participation and support when considering proposed landmark designations, neither is a required condition for the designation of a landmark."

Designation requires homeowners to apply for and receive permits for most work. Invoking landmark laws to resolve problems resulting from un-enforced building codes is neither the intent nor spirit of the landmark laws. The focus should be on improving, updating and enforcing zoning and building codes and

not on limiting the rights of the homeowners and creating fertile ground for bureaucratic corruption. Regulating homeowners' property rights may stifle their proclivity to enhance and enrich the "gracious sense of place" they created in the first place.

The character and "sense of place" the association cites that distinguishes our neighborhood consists of many elements. Among them are the number of local store front signs, ads, and posters that are indecipherable to many residents. In the interest of "preserving our neighborhood," perhaps BFHA should seek landmarking of the English language.

*Ed Konecnik  
Flushing*

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# Students tell little-known New York story

The young student members of the Aquinas Honor Society of The Immaculate Conception School Catholic Academy, Jamaica Estates are a remarkable group of academically gifted scholars and have garnered accolades and awards over the years for their many unique and historical projects.

The students have a strong 9/11 connection. They were recently made the stewards and caretakers of a 9/11 Mural, given to them by the 9/11 Museum. On Sept. 16, the students will visit the Maple Grove Cemetery 9/11 Memorial to unfurl their 9/11 Mural and offer a moment of silence for all those who were lost. Then, they will proceed to the grave of Ludolf Portong, one of the 38 victims of another New York City terrorist bombing and mark the 95th anniversary of the bombing of Wall Street.

Ludolf Portong of Richmond Hill, a Wall Street clerk, bravely fought in World War I and survived. He returned home, married his sweetheart

and was expecting the birth of his first child, when he went to lunch on Sept. 16, 1920 and became a victim of the first act of terrorism aimed at the heart of America's financial institution. He was buried in the family plot at Maple Grove Cemetery.

On that day, a horse-drawn wagon, loaded with a bomb containing dynamite and 500 pounds of small iron weights, was parked in front of 23 Wall Street, a corner building then the headquarters of J.P. Morgan & Co., the nation's most powerful bank. At 12:01 p.m., the timer on the bomb reached zero and a terrific explosion rocked the street. Thirty people died instantly from the blast, and another eight died later from the injuries they sustained. Today, the limestone facade of 23 Wall Street still bears the scars from the shrapnel that blasted into it 95 years ago.

No one claimed responsibility in the aftermath of the attack. Despite a three-year investigation, those responsible for the attack have never

been officially identified. In 1944, however, the FBI revisited the case and concluded that anarchists were likely behind the plot—the group had conducted a series of bombings across the United States in 1919, which fueled the nation's first Red Scare.

The students did extensive research on this event and made a presentation at the annual Aquinas School Expo last May. They created a display filled with photographs and documents they will set up at Maple Grove Cemetery. The students have not failed to make a profound connection with the Wall Street bombing and the 9/11 terrorist attack, remembering the victims from each. They have already designed and created a stained glass memorial window of peace and hope designed and created in memory of the victims of the 9/11 attack. The window contains pieces of steel from the Twin Towers, given to them by the New York Fire Department. They were the first group of school children to book a class trip



An explosion outside 23 Wall Street on Sept. 16, 1920 killed 38 people. Courtesy of Library of Congress

to the 9/11 Museum and were recently given a mural from the museum made by visitors from around the world.

There are no plaques or memorials commemorating the 1920 bombing or its victims anywhere. The students will gather at the cemetery to remember those victims and at precisely 12:01 will ring their Aquinas Memorial Peace Bell to mark the moment the bomb

exploded 95 years ago. The names of the 38 victims will be read, floral tributes will be presented to remember those lost on that sad day.

*Carl Ballenas  
Teacher,  
Immaculate Conception  
School Catholic Academy  
Jamaica Estates*

## The 7 train extension: \$500 million and a station short

There is more to the MTA starting service on the No. 7 subway line to the new 34th Street-11th Ave. Hudson Yards station on Sunday that few are aware of. The original cost of the overall project was \$2.1 billion and is now \$2.4 billion not counting the subway station that had to be dropped from the original scope of work along with additional subway cars necessary to provide opening day service for transit riders.

What the public, transit riders, transit advocacy groups

and the media are unaware of is MTA senior management's decision when the project was in the planning stage several years prior to 2007. They instructed staff deliberately not to follow the federal National Environmental Protection Act process or enter the United States Department of Transportation New Starts process. The MTA did not want to go after New Starts funding for this project. This would have had this project compete against both the Long Island Rail Road East Side Access to

Grand Central Terminal and the Second Avenue subway projects for funding. The MTA provided no financial assistance and insisted New York City pay for virtually all of the project costs

The MTA could have leveraged the \$2.4 billion in locally committed funding to apply for up to \$500 million in federal New Starts funding. Using \$2.4 billion as the local share would have demonstrated local commitment, financial capacity and significant overmatch for justification of

these additional dollars from Washington. These funds could have convinced DOT to provide \$500 million in federal funding, which would have paid for the deleted station at 10th Avenue and 41st Street.

Should the MTA find future funding for this station, the cost could be significantly higher than \$500 million. The MTA will need a new procurement and third party contractor to build the station. The previous contractor already had a staging area for supplies, support equipment and

employees already mobilized to do the work. It would have been cheaper to build the deleted station with the existing contractor already mobilized, on site with few obstacles.

At the end of the day, riders and taxpayers have to ask if \$2.4 billion for a 1.5 mile extension, including one additional station built 21 months behind schedule, is worth the cost.

*Larry Penner  
Great Neck*

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### CORRECTIONS

In a letter from Benjamin M. Haber ("Willets Point is a lesson in absurdity," Sept. 4 issue), the time frame of the postponement of housing at Willets Point was incorrectly stated, due to a typographical error. The postponement of housing in the development is until 2025, not 2015, and the period of time that will have elapsed since the 2008 Willets Point plan is 17 years.

In "'Design-build' success for Queens but faces uncertain future" (Sept. 4 issue), several details about the contract to rebuild the Kosciuszko Bridge were misstated. The contract was awarded to a joint venture between the construction firms Skanska, Kiewit and ECCO III, not just to Skanska. The lead design firm was HNTB. Additionally, the contract was \$555 million not \$255 million, awarded in May not July.

# A substitute learns about city's public schools



Lenore Skenazy

■  
*Rhymes with Crazy*

What's it like to be a substitute in the New York City public schools?

That's not what Elizabeth Rose's new book, "Yo Mizl," is about. It's about what it's like to be a sub at 25 New York City public schools over the course of one year.

The songwriter and playwright had been teaching at the same school for 10 years—Vanguard, on East 68th Street—and loving it. But then came a Department of Education edict regarding about 2,500 "excessed" teachers—teachers not fired, but whose school no longer had a paid position for them. What becomes of a teacher without a school?

Rose's cohort was to be churned through the system: substituting a week at a time at school, after school, after school. Rumor had it that this was supposed to drive them so crazy, they'd all quit—

which is something Rose considered.

But then she reconsidered. Outsiders aren't generally allowed into the schools. Here was her chance.

"It was," she decided, "irresistible."

And so began a year that swung from inspiring to infuriating on pretty much a weekly basis.

Her first placement, Baruch High School, was filled with students eager to study the Code of Hammurabi and what makes for a just punishment. It's the kind of place most of us wish our kids could go—but only about 450 of the brightest of the bright get in.

This deployment was quickly followed by one at an unscreened school on the Lower East Side where Rose was thrown into chemistry class—she's an art teacher—and threatened with assault. One student had a gang insignia tattooed on his face.

Stints followed at the High School of Fashion Industries, a buzzing hive of creativity with students' handiwork draped on dress mannequins. Then there was a week she spent guarding an unused door in a fetid hallway at another school. The principal screamed at her

when she requested a bathroom key. From the students to faculty, everyone looked beaten down.

There was another week at a high-energy graphic design school where students worked on the latest video editing equipment. And then came a week at a school in Washington Heights where she was put in charge of the art class.

Here the supplies all fit into one cardboard box: A bunch of colored pencils.

"They all needed sharpening," says Rose. And naturally, "someone had run off with the sharpener."

Someone had also run off with any kind of leadership. Rose learned that she was there only so the school could claim its students had fulfilled their art class credit.

"It was a scam."

She took a deep breath and decided it would at least be a week worth remembering.

"Take out your pens," she told the class. "We're doing self portraits. What is your most interesting feature? Exaggerate it."

A table full of boys refused.

"They said, 'No, this is whack.'"

So Rose went to the white board and started drawing

**How can some kids never go on a field trip when they live just a few subway stops away from some of the greatest art museums of the world?**

them. This enraged the boys. What right did she have? They retaliated by drawing her—and not kindly. But she had the last laugh.

They were drawing.

The next day Rose brought in some art supplies from home. The next day, some more. On the last day, however, she brought in Oreos instead, and announced, "Today we're going to do an art project."

Her assignment? Write on the white board all the things they thought an art class should have.

Paper!

Paint!

Field trips!

"We Deserve a Great Art Class!" Rose scrawled at the top of the board. Then she gathered the students in front of the board, backs to the camera for legal purposes, and told them they could make whatever gesture seemed appropriate.

It's a gesture you've seen on the highway when you cut somebody off.

The picture summed up Rose's outrage and what she hopes will be ours, too: How can a school of 600 young people have no art supplies in the creative capital of America? How can some kids never go on a field trip when they live just a few subway stops away from one of the greatest art museums in the world? How can some schools have video editing equipment, or discussions about Hammurabi, and other have dank halls, screaming principals, and just one week of art?

"Once you meet these kids, you'll feel how much you want them to have a chance at success," says Rose.

Feeling it.

*Lenore Skenazy is a keynote speaker and author and founder of the book and blog Free-Range Kids.*

## The road from the vice presidency to the presidency



William Lewis

■  
*Political Action*

It looks like Vice President Joseph Biden may be entering the Democratic presidential primary in 2016. Since the closing days of World War II, there have been 14 vice presidents, all of them elected vice president except for Gerald Ford who was appointed vice president and became president when Richard Nixon resigned.

All of these vice presidents at one time or another had ambitions to become president.

Five of them did, namely Harry Truman, Lyndon Johnson, Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford and George Bush Sr. It is interesting to note that none of these presidents completed two full four-year terms. Truman completed Franklin D. Roosevelt's fourth term and then was elected in 1948 to a full term in office. Nixon was elected president in 1968 and re-elected in 1972 but resigned in 1974 due to the Watergate scandal. Ford was defeated for election to the presidency by Jimmy Carter. Johnson finished John Kennedy's first term and his own four-year term. He chose not to run for re-election in 1968. Nixon resigned during his second term. Ford was defeated when he ran for a full

term. Bush was elected to one term and was defeated for re-election.

In the case of Joe Biden, he tried twice before to gain the Democratic presidential nomination, but did not succeed.

If he enters the presidential primary, his main opponent, Hillary Clinton, will have several advantages including having raised large sums of money. She has been campaigning for almost a year and she has built a campaign organization, especially in the early primary states. She also has a well-organized staff.

Biden has the experience of having run for president before and having spent almost his entire career in elective office. He has also campaigned for other offices and

will be able to build support quickly.

It seems that President Barack Obama will be supporting Biden, considering that Biden has been a very active vice president and has worked well with the president. The vice president of the United States has very few official duties other than what assignments the president may give him.

If Obama is active in supporting Biden for the Democratic presidential primary, it could have an effect on the results of the primary.

Over the years since our national election process began, as I indicated, not many vice presidents have risen to become president. However the importance of the office

is considerable since the vice president is next in line to assume the presidency.

It will be a very interesting race if it turns out that Biden and Clinton are the two major candidates in the Democratic primary.

The 2016 election for president will be one of the most important presidential elections in modern times. It is hoped that the American people will vote in large numbers.

On the Republican side, we have what might be called an open primary with the large group of candidates competing, although some of those will be dropping out if they don't do well in the early primaries.

Politics in 2016 is something to look forward to.

# 'Gentleman Jim' and the legacy he left Bayside

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The Greater Astoria Historical Society

In conjunction with the Greater Astoria Historical Society, the TimesLedger newspaper presents noteworthy events in the borough's history

Champion heavyweight boxer, actor and Queens resident Jim Corbett was born in San Francisco, Calif. on Sept. 1, 1866. Known as "Gentleman Jim," Corbett was raised in a middle-class family headed by his Irish immigrant father. He attended college and worked as a bank clerk before mastering the pugilistic arts at a local gym.

Fighting from an orthodox stance, the champion notched 14 wins, five by knockout, in a career spanning 17 years from 1886 to 1903. After retir-

ing from the ring, Gentleman Jim found a successful and lucrative second calling as a Broadway and screen actor. Corbett's younger brother Dan was a Major League baseball pitcher for the Baltimore Orioles and other teams, and his great-great-nephew, also Dan Corbett, was a heavyweight boxer in the 1990s.

First entering the ring professionally in Salt Lake City, Utah in 1886, the heavyweight great racked up an impressive record of eight wins, two draws and three no contests in bouts from California to New York City before making boxing history in his match with John L. Sullivan in 1892.

Squaring off in New Or-

leans under Marquess of Queensberry Rules, which dictated that fighters wear gloves, the younger and faster Corbett proved too much for the heavyweight champ and his crouch-and-rush fighting style. Sullivan, who was known as "The Boston Strong Boy," faltered in the 21st round when Corbett landed a smashing left, heard throughout the venue, that knocked him off his feet. It was now up to Gentleman Jim to defend his new, hard-fought heavyweight title.

At a time when boxing was still outlawed in most states, Corbett only defended his title once, knocking out British fighter Charley Mitchell in three rounds in an 1894 match in Jacksonville, Fla. A short three years later, the San Francisco native relinquished the championship to Bob Fitzsimmons in a 14-round bout in Carson City, Nev.

Although Corbett master-

fully outboxed his opponent in a match lasting over an hour and a half, the challenger scored blow after blow on Gentleman Jim until a hit to the solar plexus knocked him off his feet and ended the fight. A film of the contest, titled "The Corbett-Fitzsimmons Fight," was the longest moving picture ever recorded when it was released later that year.

Following his retirement from boxing, Jim Corbett went into acting, appearing on stage and in a number of low-budget films, and also gave talks about his fighting career. In 1924, nearing 60 years of age, the Bayside, Queens resident had a friendly sparring match with future champ and admirer Gene Tunney, who marveled that Corbett had not lost his touch after so many years out of the ring.

From 1903 until his passing in 1933 at 66, Gentleman Jim lived in a home which still stands today at 221-04

Corbett Road. His autobiography, "The Roar of the Crowd," was made into a 1942 film starring Errol Flynn. Jim Corbett, boxing champ, actor and author, was buried in Cypress Hills Cemetery in Brooklyn. He was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in 1990.

Notable Quote: "Fight one more round. When your feet are so tired that you have to shuffle back to the centre of the ring, fight one more round. When your nose is bleeding and your eyes are black and you are so tired you wish your opponent would crack you one on the jaw and put you to sleep, fight one more round—remembering that the man who always fights one more round is never whipped."

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# Mid Village underpass plagued by dirty birds



Constituents from Middle Village along with Sen. Joseph Addabbo observe the pedestrian underpass at 80th Street and 57th Avenue. The Office of State Senator Joseph P. Addabbo Jr.

BY GABRIEL ROM

In response to a growing number of complaints about unsightly and unsanitary conditions at the pedestrian underpass at 80th Street and 57th Avenue in Middle Village, state Sen. Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr. (D-Howard Beach) last week met with constituents to discuss possible solutions for cleaning up the area.

The condition of the walkway beneath the Long Island Expressway has become progressively worse in recent months, mainly due to a growing infestation of pigeons that congregate in the tunnel. Droppings, old eggs, broken spikes and feathers are strewn about the sidewalk, along with litter and other debris left by foot traffic.

Addabbo has previously contacted the state Department of Transportation, which is responsible for maintaining the underpass, calling on the agency to clean up the walkways and do more to prevent the birds from gathering in the area. While the state DOT has made efforts to clean and revamp the sidewalks, the senator requested that the state agency take long-term

measures to keep pigeons away permanently. After visiting the walkway recently with two constituents who use it every day, Addabbo got a first-hand look at how dirty the underpass has gotten.

“The Department of Transportation listened to our concerns the first time around, and my constituents and I need them to hear us again now,” Addabbo said. “While we appreciate their efforts to tidy up this area, more needs to be done to prevent this situation from continuing to occur, worsening each time around. These pigeons and the mess they leave behind are making this walkway unbearable, and the people of Middle Village and the surrounding communities deserve better. Nobody wants to walk down a sidewalk covered in bird droppings and dirty feathers, and nobody should have to.”

Addabbo plans to discuss possible solutions to the walkway’s growing pigeon problem with the state DOT and hopes to settle on a way to remedy the issue.

Reach reporter Gabriel Rom by e-mail at [grom@cnglocal.com](mailto:grom@cnglocal.com) or by phone at (718) 260-4564.

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# NYPD complaints drop by 22%: CCRB

BY SADEF ALI KULLY

A new Civilian Complaint Review Board report on misconduct complaints against NYPD officers released this week showed a small percentage of the police force were responsible for many of the complaints filed with the city agency.

Four major trends showed up in the report: a declining number of complaints against officers, which reached the lowest level since 2001; an increase in the rate at which Civilian Complaint Review Board complaints can be substantiated due in large part to the increased availability of video evidence; a significant shortening of investigation time; and cooperation between the CCRB and the NYPD, resulting in disciplinary recommendations being adopted.

The CCRB complaints filed decreased by 22 percent in the first half of 2015 compared to a year earlier and were the lowest number filed for any six-month period since 2001. The CCRB received 2,092 complaints in the 2015 period, com-

pared to 2,698 in the first six-months of 2014.

The mid-year report of misconduct complaints made against NYPD officers in the last 18 months show that 3,721 officers, or about 10 percent of the total police force, accounted for an estimated 79 percent of complaints.

An overwhelming number of officers — 32,006 — had no complaints against them, while 14 percent of NYPD officers were responsible for all citizen complaints to the Civilian Complaint Review Board, the report said.

The ever-growing access to video has also enhanced CCRB investigations. The percentage of substantiated force cases where video evidence played a role increased by 30 percent since 2012.

“This report documents the confluence of two significant statistics—the continuing decrease in civilian complaints against NYPD officers and the remarkable fact that very few officers are responsible for almost all CCRB complaints,” Richard Emery, the CCRB chairman said. “What



In southeast Queens, the 103rd and 113th precincts receive the most civilian complaints compared to other precincts across the borough.

Photo by Michael Shain

this means for New Yorkers is that police misconduct is not intractable and is on the wane. A shift in the NYPD culture towards civilians and the use of body-worn cameras will improve police-community relations, resulting in bigger drops in complaints to come.”

In Queens, the 103rd and 113th precincts in southeast

Queens have received the most complaints compared to other precincts across the borough within the last 18 months.

The 103rd Precinct in downtown Jamaica has also piloted two new police programs; body cameras and veteran guides for rookie officers.

Deputy Inspector John Capelmann of the 103rd Precinct

said over the last few years they were down by 50 percent in complaints, but “it is an ongoing effort.”

New CCRB cases were fully investigated in 77 days on average. A year ago a full investigation could take up to 271 days.

After investigations are completed, the NYPD has disciplined over 90 percent of the officers involved in the complaints. The rate was the highest it has been since the creation of the independent CCRB in 1993.

The number of stop-and-frisk complaints declined 23 percent from January through June 2015, compared to the same period of 2014. The reason appears to be the drop in documented street encounters by police, from 45,787 in calendar year 2014 to 13,405 in the first half of 2015, the lowest since 2000.

Reach Reporter Sadeef Ali Kully by e-mail at [skully@cn-glocal.com](mailto:skully@cn-glocal.com) or by phone at (718) 260-4546.

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# Ulrich hails funds for homeless vets

BY GABRIEL ROM

City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito (D-Manhattan) and Veterans Committee Chairman Eric Ulrich (R-Ozone Park), gathered with service members and veterans advocates last week on the Lower East Side to hail funding allocated in the 2016 budget for the Veterans Services Initiative. The Initiative will provide \$940,000 to address the needs of the city's 1,000 homeless vets, including legal services, mental health and job training, and community development.

"The City Council is leading the way in supporting our veterans," Ulrich said. "The funding we have allocated for legal services, comprehensive mental health and job training and placement is only a small token of appreciation for those who have sacrificed so much on our behalf."

According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, almost half of the nation's homeless veterans struggle with mental illness and substance abuse problems. In New York, the Food Bank of NYC reported that 70,000 veterans—nearly 30 percent of the city's total veteran population—relied on soup kitchens and food pantries to avoid going hungry.

Included in the fund-

ing is \$150,000 for Project Renewal, which will provide homeless prevention services to city veterans through its culinary arts training program. Another \$150,000 has been allocated to Helmets to Hardhats, NYC—a nonprofit that provides veterans with jobs in the construction industry.

In addition to the Veterans Services Initiative, the administration agreed to the Council's recommendation to allocate additional resources to the Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs by providing veterans service officers who will serve all five boroughs.

"Far too many veterans struggle to rebuild their lives after bravely serving our country," Mark-Viverito said. "New York City has a duty and an obligation to support our veterans in their time of need. The Veterans Services Initiative will connect these courageous men and women to jobs, legal assistance, counseling and housing opportunities so that veterans can navigate these challenges and transition successfully back to civilian life. Every day New York City thanks the veterans who put their lives on the line for our country and our freedom."

Reach reporter Gabriel Rom by e-mail at [grom@cnglocal.com](mailto:grom@cnglocal.com) or by phone at (718) 260-4564.



Councilman Eric Ulrich is joined by city officials to announce that \$940,000 will be used to provide services for veterans in need across the five boroughs.

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# B&N exit worries Queens' literary community

## Authors, community activists keep hope for literary renaissance amid book lovers' desert

BY GABRIEL ROM

As Barnes & Noble closes its last two Queens locations, leaving Forest Hills without a bookstore and Bayside with just one, many in the borough's literary community worry over what, if anything, will take their place.

"For them to be gone is just very shocking," said Nina Cassius, assistant manager at Turn the Page Again bookstore on Bell Boulevard in Bayside. "All I can wonder is who is going to fill the void?"

The stores, many said, were some of the last remaining centers of literary life in Queens.

"If Barnes & Noble does not reopen shortly, it will leave a tremendous gap—a void in the Forest Hills literary community," said Michael Perlman, an author and community activist. "We will lose a major destination, one that has been an integral aspect of our daily lives and has enhanced our quality of life."

The slumping retail giant recently reported a decline in sales for the fifth consecutive quarter, which explained in part the decision to shutter the Queens stores.

But amid the concern, some see a window, however small, for a literary rebirth in Queens.

"This presents an opportunity," said Johanne Civil, executive director of the Queens Book Festival. "Whether a conglomerate or a small independent, it's always a loss when a bookstore in a community closes. But once that door closes, the leaders within the community should step up in either supporting a non-profit that wants to open or an entrepreneur that wants to open a shop but lacks financial means."

Civil pointed to The Astoria Bookshop as a successful model that she hopes entrepreneurs in Forest Hills, Bayside and throughout Queens will take close notice of.

"They have the right for-



The Barnes & Noble location at Bay Terrace, 23-80 Bell Blvd., is expected to close by the end of the year. Photo by Michael Shain

mula," she said. "You can't just be a bookstore. You have to be a community center."

In Brooklyn and Manhattan, independent bookstores have enjoyed a renaissance over the past decade, but the trend has yet to carry over to Queens.

"Queens is on the map in so many areas, from real estate to food, but we aren't yet known for our literary scene,"

Civil explained.

Megan Abbott, a bestselling author and Forest Hills resident, sees writers increasingly moving to Queens to escape the high cost of living in neighboring boroughs.

"This is the moment. I'm hoping that new opportunities will arise, and we'll get the type of warm, intimate bookstores that you see in Brooklyn and Manhattan," Abbott said.

, "We don't have to convince people that there's a value to reading—I think they already know it here in Forest Hills, so if a few independent stores open, it could really coalesce the community."

Lexi Beach, who opened The Astoria Bookshop in 2013, sees an unmet demand in Queens not only for places to buy books but for places for book lovers to congregate.

"The fact that I'm one of only a few independent bookstores in Queens is preposterous," Beach said. "I've got people coming into this bookstore from all around the borough. I've had a number of friends ask me if I'm planning to expand, and the answer is no, but I certainly hope that somebody else will."

"We're all doing pretty well," Beach added. "Come on, join the club."

Reach reporter Gabriel Rom by e-mail at [grom@cnglocal.com](mailto:grom@cnglocal.com) or by phone at (718) 260-4564.

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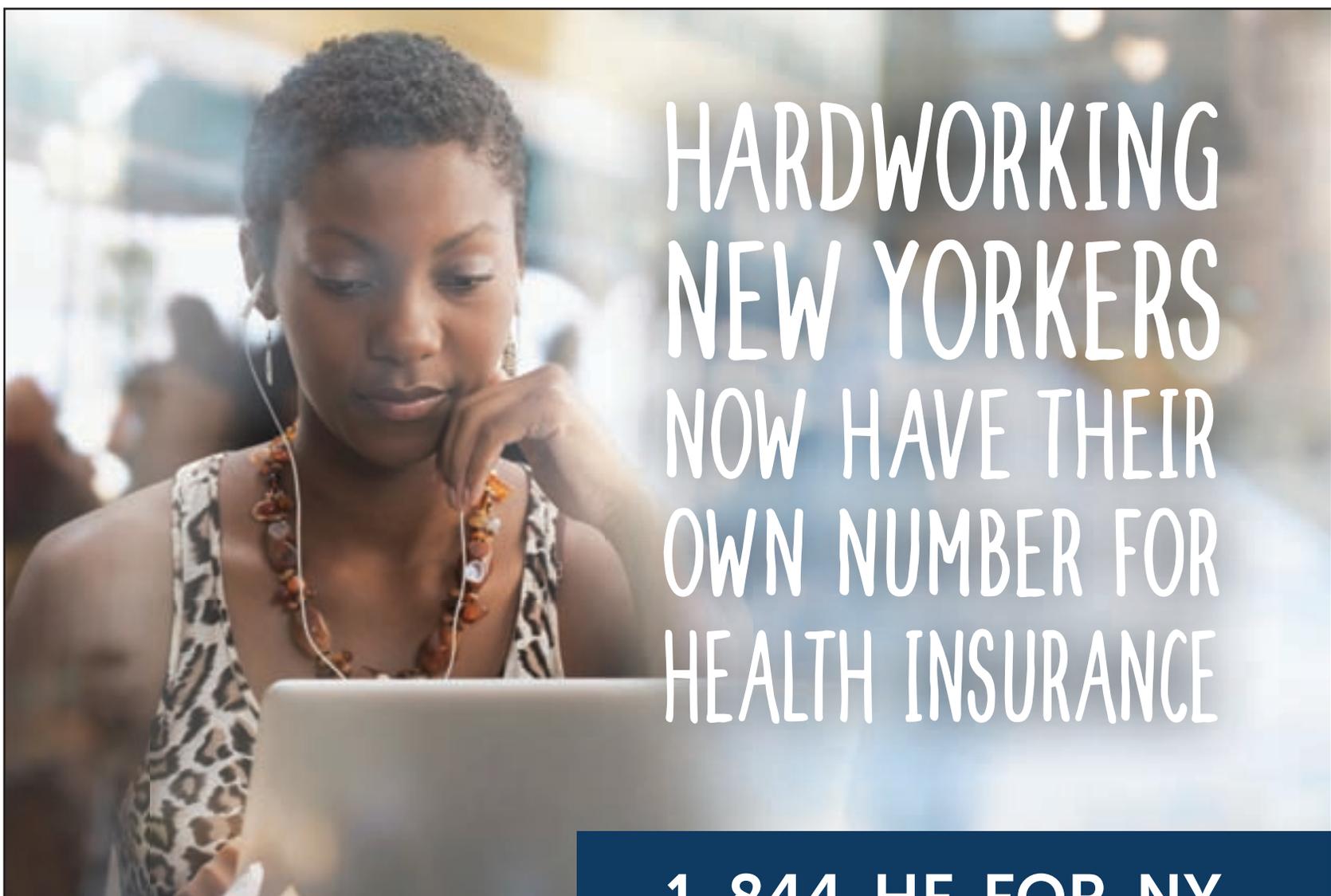
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# Family Day to be held

BY MADINA TOURE



A little girl getting her face painted at the first annual Family Fun Day event in Whitestone.

The 109th Precinct and the We Love Whitestone Civic Association are hosting the second annual Family Fun Day in Whitestone later this month.

The event, which took place in Whitestone for the first time last year, will be held Sept. 26 from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Francis Lewis Park on 3rd Avenue between Parsons Boulevard and 147th Street.

The festivities will include pony rides, rock wall climbing, face painting, a pick-your-own pumpkin patch, popcorn, cotton candy, children's rides and a video game truck arcade.

Alfred Centola, president of We Love Whitestone, said the event seeks to bring together neighbors to celebrate the end of summer and have a good time.

"It's just a family day for the community," Centola said.

Police officers from the 109th Pre-

cinct will be serving food from a barbecue at the event. Local businesses donated hot dogs and burgers as well.

Local bands are going to play at the event and music will be provided by Music & Passion Entertainment, a music entertainment company.

# Grant for Elmhurst Hosp.

BY BILL PARRY

Elmhurst Hospital Center will receive a \$150,000 grant over the next two years from New York state to study medical simulation training for cardiac arrest code teams. The state funds will go to develop a novel curriculum for hospital medical teams responding to cardiac arrests, with the goal of developing training techniques that will lead to better safety and improved outcomes for patients.

"Elmhurst Hospital Center has a reputation for providing outstanding treatment to cardiac arrest patients," Christopher Constantino, the senior vice president of the Queens Health Network and executive director of Elmhurst Hospital Center, said. "These funds will allow us to expand our team-based approach and provide

additional opportunities for physicians to conduct medical research regarding cardiac care that will benefit our community."

Overall, 26 hospitals throughout the state were selected to receive a total of \$17.2 million for the cardiac arrest training. The awards are intended to provide funding for teaching hospitals to form research teams focused on a specific topic, disease or condition. It also provides a foundation from which they can seek additional funding from the federal government to build upon their work.

The funding comes from the Empire Clinical Research Investigator Program, an advisory body of medical educators within the State Department of Health. Almost \$103 million has been awarded since the program's inception in 2000.

# Sex offenders leave shelter

BY SADEF ALI KULLY

The city Department of Homeless Services has removed all Level 2 and 3 sex offenders from the Skyway Men's Shelter off South Conduit in South Ozone Park, City Councilman Ruben Wills (D-South Ozone Park) said Wednesday.

The facility, a former motel at 132-30 South Conduit Ave. on the outer edge of Kennedy Airport, is home to more

than 100 residents. It has been a controversial presence in the area since it was converted from a family shelter to a men's shelter in 2011.

"Several years ago our community was taken aback by the sudden and rapid conversion of the Skyway Family Center into a shelter for single men. We feared sex offenders would be housed there, and those fears eventually became reality," Wills said.

# Education



Childhood learning experts recommend parents prepare youngsters for school by talking to teachers, administrators and the young students about the child's likes and dislikes and what is special about each individual.

## Help your child start year right

They grow up fast, don't they? One minute they're in a car seat and the next you're picking out a school backpack. The transition to preschool and kindergarten is a big leap for most families and sometimes it can feel like a roller coaster ride. There are some obvious ways to prepare your kids for these changes: buying school supplies, getting them used to waking up on time, eating breakfast and possibly even taking a school bus ride. But there are some not-so-obvious preparations, too, like preparing yourself to take on a brand

new role - as the parent of a school-aged child.

"As parents, it's so easy to focus on our kids and what they need that we forget to consider what we need," says Donna Hunt O'Brien, an expert in early child development and director of training, curriculum and program innovation at Parents as Teachers, an organization devoted to supporting families and young children. "It's important to prepare yourself for your child's transition too. You are your child's first and best teacher and that role will expand as your child starts her journey through

school. The more confident and prepared you are the more confident and successful your child will be."

To help make your child's school year as successful as possible - and to help you enjoy the ride, as well - here are five things you can do to create a strong partnership between your family and your child's school:

- Open the lines of communication with your child's teachers and adult friends. You're not the only teacher in your child's life any more. Now she has other adults who are there to help. Introduce

yourself, give out your contact information and make it clear you're happy these new teachers are a part of your child's world. After all, you both already have something in common — you like watching your child learn new things. Establish a positive relationship with these other adults right away and you'll feel more comfortable coming to them when you need support.

- Involve your child's fan club. By the time your child is 3 or 4 years old, she will have many adults in her life who care about her, including grandparents, babysit-

ters, and relatives. They are her loudest cheering section, so keep everyone in the loop about her triumphs and challenges as she enters that next grade level.

- Let teachers know what makes your family tick. What's the free time passion in your household? Do you read books together, play music, or do you love to spend time outdoors playing games? Share what your family likes to do with your child's school. This will give teachers an inside look at what your child loves and make it easier to find ways to

*Continued on Page 26*

# Valuable resource in short supply: Teachers

The role of teachers in today's society cannot be understated. Outside of a child's parents, teachers are often the primary adult influencers in a young person's life.

Yet this essential role is getting harder and harder to fill as school districts across the nation face significant teacher shortages according to the U.S. Department of Education. To counteract this critical problem, recruiting new talent to the profession has become a national priority. What shouldn't be lost in the quest for teachers, however is the intrinsic rewards of influencing and educating young people. The educators of tomorrow must view teaching as a path toward improving lives, not simply as a means to meet the demand.

**Morale remains high**

The modern teacher shortage can be tied to many things — including a wave of retiring



With plenty of educators retiring or set to retire, many school districts are now facing a shortage of qualified teachers to lead their classrooms.

educators and national education funding challenges — but teacher morale does not appear to be an issue. Research shows that 88 percent of teachers are satisfied with their choice to

become a teacher, according to a recent University of Phoenix College of Education survey of more than 1,000 K-12 teachers. Additionally, 68 percent of teachers, who entered the field

in the past 10 years, say they would recommend the profession to others. Recent federal data supports these findings as well. Eighty-three percent of teachers who entered the field

in 2008-2009 were still working in education five years later, according to the National Center for Education Statistics.

Higher education's role in preparing the next generation of teachers

Efforts to grow the teaching ranks must focus on teacher recruitment, particularly in STEM subjects. Research also shows that expanding access to teacher preparation programs and providing prospective teachers with experience that will help them navigate the critical first few years in the classroom is essential.

Higher education institutions play a vital role in ensuring potential candidates understand the opportunities that exist in education. Today's teacher preparation programs must be able to accommodate modern student schedules and meet unique education needs.

Teacher preparation programs that offer flexibility and

*Continued on Page 26*

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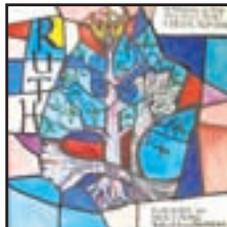
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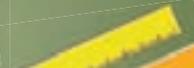
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What kind of jobs will our children have ten years from now? What skills do we need to teach our students in order to prepare them for the future? The answer isn't simple.

HAFTR recently began an extraordinary technology program. We received a grant from the Gruss Foundation, and generous donations from HAFTR families, to begin our unique Ed Tech adventure. HAFTR acquired hardware to create our innovative program. We strongly believe technology – a powerful tool – can be utilized to help our students become lifelong learners. Emphasis is placed on making the teacher the central part of the classroom, not a computer.

We recently introduced 3D printing across all of our campuses. Students learn across multiple platforms, advancing curriculum and sparking creativity. Our new Educational Technology department has carefully crafted curricula, and lessons, vertically integrated throughout divisions. We have connected with Ms. Carla Diana, author of *Leo the Maker Prince: a Journey into 3D Printing for Young Students*. The author and publishing company were so impressed with HAFTR's approach, that they have asked us to collaborate with them on future projects. Ms. Diana will be visiting our lower school in the upcoming months.

The HAFTR Learning to Code pro-

gram teaches logical and computational thinking skills as well as fundamental principles of programming. The coding classes are designed to provide a positive experience with programming. Even our kindergarteners will be coding this year! Students learn by creating 3-D characters, backgrounds, and stories; then they use the programming elements to make those objects interact in compelling ways. Students add objects to a 3-D world and use each object's built-in methods to create animations, interactive stories, or games that can be exported and shared via web pages.

Our school now boasts three new computer labs and over one hundred iPads across all divisions. KidBlog, Ariot, Dreambox, and Vocabulary City are programs already used in our lower school. We have even created a database of lessons used on snow days! When they graduate, students will have a full portfolio of projects that they have created over the years

Research has shown that there is increased interest from female students in STEM initiatives, but often girls and young woman shy away due to peer pressure. We want to break that stigma and show that students of any gender can succeed greatly in our new tech environment. To that end, we encourage our girls to participate in all of our technology programs.

# EDUCATION

## Teachers

*Continued from Page 24*

relevance to the dynamics of today's classrooms are a must for student success. In addition, the curriculum offered by higher education institutions should also provide today's teacher candidates with real-world scenarios that encourage critical thinking and decision-making skills. These lessons will be vital when managing their own classrooms in the years ahead.

### Inspiring tomorrow's teachers

As most teachers will attest, they did not join the profession to get rich,

but rather to inspire children and young adults to learn, set ambitious goals and achieve them. The University of Phoenix survey found that past generations of teachers were quite successful at this. Nearly half of respondents were inspired to join the profession by a teacher they had when they were young, according to the University of Phoenix survey.

Recruiting, retaining and supporting the individuals who are so critical to the future of today's children, takes a team effort. But the efforts are worth it as the successes of today's teachers will ultimately translate into the victories of tomorrow's leaders.

## New year

*Continued from Page 23*

capture her imagination.

- Share what makes your child special. If you're the parent of multiple kids, then you know better than anyone that every child is different - each has his or her own strengths and needs. As your child's first teacher and parent, you're the expert on everything to do with your kid. Take the time to listen to her thoughts and concerns and make sure you pass along this information to your child's school. It can help teachers know what to look for and how to lend a helping hand when your

child needs it.

- Take the time to find your team. As parents, you're all on this roller coaster ride together, so don't be afraid to introduce yourself and share some stories with your fellow passengers. Learning that other parents have the same concerns or issues you do can make you feel better about your own situation.

These first school years are a big step, not only for your children, but for you as well. Make them amazing and don't forget to celebrate your child's victories.

They grow up fast, so enjoy the ride together. For more tips visit [www.ParentsAsTeachers.org](http://www.ParentsAsTeachers.org).



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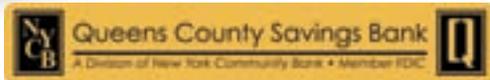
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# Students of Distinction

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## Claudia Porcoro-Ion



### The Mary Louis Academy

Claudia Porcoro-Ion was a member of the college preparatory program at The Mary Louis Academy. Upon acceptance she was awarded a scholarship on the basis of a competitive diocesan

entrance examination. Her initial promise became a reality throughout her academic career.

As a high-ranking achiever at TMLA, Claudia was a yearly member of the elite Principal's List. She was inducted into both the National Honor Society and the Language Other Than English (LOTE) Honor Society. AP courses completed included: AP Physics, AP Calculus, AP History, and AP World History I and II.

She was a recipient of St. John's University Women in Science Award for Freshman, Sophomore, Junior and Senior Year. Claudia also was honored as a National Merit Commended Student during her Junior year.

Claudia participated in several programs. She was a member of ACE Mentoring Program and an After School Program Counselor at her former elementary school. Extracurricular activities included participation and membership in the Speech and Glee Clubs, and studying acoustic guitar at Queens Guitar School.

Angela Cacciola, Mathematics, says, "Claudia was in Accelerated Algebra 2 Trig, which enrolled only the cream of the crop mathematics students. She came up with unusual ways to solve problems, which stimulated dialogue within the class." Claudia maintained a 100% class average and scored a stellar 99% on the rigorous New York State Board of Regents Exam.

The activity Claudia was most passionate about was her internship at Cooper Union for a pre-college STEM Program. She worked alongside college professors during the six-week program that explored ways to protect New York City from potential future hurricane damage. The academic disciplines of the program coupled with Clau-

dia's interest in civil engineering were a winning combination.

NYU was so impressed by her studies and acumen that she was extended a full scholarship. Claudia commenced undergraduate studies this Fall.

## Steven Gomez



### Forest Hills High School

Leadership, achievement, focus, and commitment to the community are but a few of Steven Gomez's many lauded qualities. He was Sophomore Governor, Junior Secretary, and, Vice President of Senior Government.

Steven maintained an average of over 98%, ranked in the top 3% of his class, and was inducted into National Honor Society and History Honor Society. As Sophomore Governor and Junior Secretary, Steven helped raise \$4,000 through school functions and organized a blood drive campaign for the Red Cross: 120 blood donors turned out for the event.

Steven's interest in legal studies has found many worthy outlets. He was President of the Law Club, participated with the New York State Mock Trial Competition, and Moot Court Competition.

Commitment to the legal arena resulted in his getting a place in the Sonia & Selena Sotomayor Judicial Internship Program. During the internship, he shadowed Judge David B. Cohen of Civil Court of New York, and was exposed to daily courtroom operations. He also assisted law clerks and fellow interns in the briefing and creation of verdicts for court cases. Documenting the experience, Steven maintained a daily journal of court proceedings and wrote and delivered a paper on relationship and correlation between history and law.

Extracurricular activities were varied between the field and good-works clubs. Steven captained the Boys' Track and Field Team, and was a valued member of the Lacrosse Team, the Red Cross Club, the Key Club and the 4-H Club.

Accepting the coveted QuestBridge Scholarship, Steven embarks on his next academic journey this Fall as an undergraduate at Princeton University.

## Shaun Lambert



### Law, Government & Community Service High School

Shaun Lambert has overcome hardship to become Valedictorian of his graduating class. He is a member of the

National Honors Society and was on the Honor Roll throughout high school. Dedication to education is evident in his perfect attendance record. He represented his school at the Borough Student Advisory Council where he met with Queens High School Superintendent and learned about DOE initiatives.

Among the activities Shaun engaged in was serving as Yearbook Editor. On the athletic field, he was free safety for the school's Bulldogs Varsity Football team. He was also active on the Varsity Track team, which won the Queens Borough Championship 2013-2014. Last spring, unfortunately, he was found to have an infection of the heart and can no longer play. Regardless, Shaun continued to maintain excellent grades and a positive outlook on life.

Being a team player came in handy while volunteering for food pantries. Learning to work quickly and efficiently assisted him as he volunteered for Get Out the Vote campaigns for both President Obama's re-election campaign and Council Member Ruben Willis's campaign.

Eric Simone, Spanish and Yearbook teacher says, "Who Shaun is, is more important than what he has done. He can be entrusted with the most important, exigent task. Not only will it get done, but it will be accomplished in a manner beyond reproach."

Shaun now attends Alfred State College, where he hopes to focus on human services and social science.

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Cathedral is immensely proud of its Medical Gateways program. Through partnerships with New York's world-class medical community, students have opportunities to observe medical professionals at work and to participate in internships while still in high school. The students receive first-hand experience in institutions such as Beth Israel and New York Presbyterian.

In the law program students ex-

plore careers in the legal system and participate in internships with law firms. Students take special classes and attend Saturday workshops that explore different legal and professional topics.

In 2015 Cathedral will be implanting a new STEM curriculum which will include classes and clubs such as Robotics and Girls Who Code.

A full complement of extracurricular activities keeps the career-minded student body well rounded. From clubs such as the Marching Band, Musical Theater & Choir to sports which include Basketball, Cheerleading, Soccer, Softball, Lacrosse, Cross Country, Volleyball and more.

Cathedral prepares its students for the world that lies ahead of them. The Class of 2015 received over \$19 million in college scholarships and grants and were accepted into schools such as College of the Holy Cross, Columbia University, NYU, and University of Pennsylvania

For more information please contact Johanna Velez at (212) 688-1545 ext. 224 or [jcastex@cathedralhs.org](mailto:jcastex@cathedralhs.org). Visit our website at [www.cathedralhs.org](http://www.cathedralhs.org).

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## OPEN HOUSE

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# The Mary Louis Academy: Preparing Young Women for College and Beyond

The Mary Louis Academy is recognized and highly regarded as one of the nation's preeminent college preparatory high schools for young women. Our reputation – for dedicated teachers, academic rigor, outstanding facilities and committed students – has been maintained at a level of high esteem for more than 75 years. TMLA is a Catholic school sponsored by the Sister of St. Joseph of Brentwood, New York. The CSJ charisma of unity, reconciliation and all-inclusive love is reflected in all aspects of The Mary Louis Academy experience.

### Leadership Opportunities

TMLA's VOICE Leadership Program is aimed at helping each young woman at The Mary Louis Academy to find her voice. It is based on Vision, Optimism, Inspiration, Confidence and Empowerment. With the incredible

challenges facing girls and young women today, having confident, educated and empowered voice is the greatest asset a young woman can possess.

### Academic Excellence

TMLA offers Honors and Advanced Placement courses in every academic discipline. TMLA offers 17 Advanced Placement courses beginning in 9th grade. The TMLA Honors Program offers great flexibility and 65% of TMLA students are enrolled in at least one Honors level course.

### Student Achievement

Our students are consistently among those recognized the National Merit Scholarship Program, National Achievement Scholarship Program of Black Americans and The National Hispanic Recognition Program. All students receive the New York State Regents Diploma with the majority receiving the New York



State Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation, New York State's highest standard.

### College Prep

All of our graduates – yes, 100% – go on to college. Many are accepted into the most prestigious colleges and universities in the nation. Seventy-eight percent of the Class of 2014 received at least one academic scholarship with a total of nearly \$40 million dollars in academic scholarships being awarded to our graduates. A full-time

college counselor helps students chart their paths up to and after graduation.

### Technology

iPads are given to incoming classes. All students are encouraged to bring their own technology to campus. Two state-of-the-art Computer Labs are available and other computers are accessible to students throughout the campus. All classrooms and resource areas are equipped with SMARTBoard technology.

### Fine Arts

TMLA offers a program in Fine Arts with a focus on Art or Music. Under the guidance of our highly skilled Arts faculty, students gain technical proficiency while attaining a high level of artistic achievement. Our multi-award-winning art program includes Graphic Art & Design.

### Extr-Curricular Activities

From clubs that focus on culture to social issues and community service to artistic expression there's an extra-curricular place for everyone. With 29 competitive teams, our athletic program is the largest high school athletic program for girls in the City of NY. Our teams have won numerous state, city and diocesan championships.

For information about The Mary Louis Academy, call 718-297-2120 or visit [www.tmla.org](http://www.tmla.org).

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# St. Agnes Academic High School

By design, St. Agnes is a small, college preparatory Catholic school for young women, where each student is treated as an individual and everyone is known by name and respected for her individual gifts and talents. Admission to St. Agnes is based on the TACHS results and the student's academic record.

St. Agnes was founded in 1908 by the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville and continues its mission today to graduate young women who are open to growth, intellectually competent, so-cially aware, morally discerning and committed to being women of integrity and truth.

One-hundred percent of our recent graduates have gone on to college or university. St. Agnes graduates set high goals and have a positive attitude about education, work, the world, and themselves. St. Agnes is much more than an all-girls high school. We're in the business of education and enriching the lives of young women to



prepare them for leadership.

Programs of study are carefully structured to meet each girl's individual scholastic needs. Students benefit from small class sizes, a dedicated faculty and the latest instructional resources, including iPads. For the academically gifted, St. Agnes offers honors, Advanced Placement and college credit courses. St. Agnes students

have the opportunity to graduate from high school with up to 37 college credits. St. Agnes also boasts of its Science Research Program affiliated with the University at Albany.

Full time guidance counselors are available for academic support, college information and preparation, and personal assistance. The culminating part of a St. Agnes

student's experience is when she has the opportunity to participate in an on-site admissions interview where she will receive her college admission decision on the spot.

St. Agnes offers students a comprehensive extracurricular program. After school, you may find a St. Agnes student scoring a goal on the soccer field, pirouetting in the

dance studio, working out in the fitness center, or volunteering at New York Hospital of Queens. Students are encouraged to become young women of faith and service.

St. Agnes will be holding an Open House on October 17th from 10am to 1:00pm. St. Agnes Academic HS, 13-24 124th Street, College Point, NY 11353, 718-353-6276, www.stagneshs.org.



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St. John's Preparatory School, a college preparatory co-educational high school, is dedicated to promoting academic excellence and to instilling the principles and values of the Catholic Faith in a positive, nurturing environment.

Inspired by its Vincentian tradition, St. John's Prep is built upon the profound respect for every individual. Students' character formation is nurtured through a vigorous academic curriculum, an engaging religious program, enriching service experiences and extensive extracurricular opportunities.

**ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE**

At St. John's Prep, a rigorous curriculum prepares students for success at all levels and in all endeavors. Led by a talented faculty, a unique individualized program provides all students with a positive and nurturing learning environment.



itive and nurturing learning environment.

**SPECIAL PROGRAMS**

**Baccalaureate Program.** A unique Baccalaureate Program provides qualified honor students with the opportunity to complete their high school diploma from St. John's Prep and a baccalaureate degree from St. John's University in just seven years.

**Advanced Placement/College Extension.** College credit is available to Prep students through Advance Placement courses in all major disciplines as well as through the College Extension Program

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2008	BMW 528xi, 34k	1008	\$13,995	2011	Acura MDX, 48k	1321	\$21,995
2012	Nissan Murano, 43k	17044	\$14,750	2013	BWW 328i xDrive, 18k	3881	\$24,995
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2012	Honda Civic, 31k	5650	\$8,995	2011	Ford Edge, 51k	1241	\$12,995
2011	Honda Accord, 31k	2651	\$9,995	2013	Dodge Gr Caravan, 43k	3793	\$12,995
2014	Nissan Versa, 9k	3309	\$9,995	2013	Chevy Malibu, 3k	1382	\$13,995
2013	Toyota Corolla, 19k	2595	\$9,995	2011	Toyota Sienna, 15k	1034	\$13,995
2012	Ford Escape, 72k	7278	\$10,995	2014	Ford Fusion, 10k	10024	\$13,995
2011	Nissan Rogue, 32k	4761	\$10,995	2012	Toyota Sienna, 23k	1070	\$14,995
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2003	Honda Accord Coupe, 91k	021636	\$3,995	2011	Toyota Rav4, 48k	1066	\$9,995
2004	Toyota Highlander, 101k	6771	\$5,995	2011	Nissan Altima, 10k	1026	\$9,995
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2010	Toyota Corolla, 37k	1042	\$7,500	2009	Honda Pilot, 36k	1032	\$13,995
2009	Toyota Sienna, 93k	391451	\$8,995	2011	Honda Pilot, 23k	5210	\$14,995
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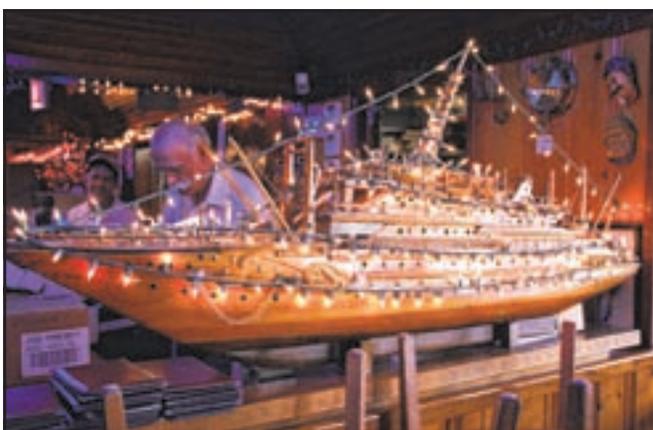


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Pier 25A Restaurant on Northern Boulevard closes without warning.



"I'm here for the nautical gear," says a buyer.

# Bidding bon voyage to a Bayside staple

Photos by Michael Shain

Bayside's boat-shaped seafood eatery, Pier 25A, closed last week before hosting an auction to sell off all its decor, furniture and kitchen equipment.

The restaurant, at 215-16 Northern Blvd., said on its website that its landlord did not wish to renew the lease and that the nautical-style building would be torn down within the next year to make room for new commercial buildings.

The landlord could not be reached for comment. The restaurant and caterer had been in business for about 32 years and was known to many Baysiders as a place to celebrate birthdays and graduations.

"We thank all the people in Bayside for coming here all these years," part-owner Tom Theofanis said. "We'll be back soon."

The owners sounded optimistic, and an employee told the TimesLedger they were planning to reopen in three to four months at a different location.

The auctioneer, Mike Amodeo of restaurant liquidation company Michael Amodeo & Company Inc., got rid of virtually everything but the kitchen sink fixtures.

The restaurant's website offered to contact customers about its reopening details if they email their contact information to [info@pier25a.com](mailto:info@pier25a.com). —Tom Momberg



Salt and pepper shakers made up this lot.



This door in the basement led to a walk-in fridge.



The over-sized pots went in the \$30-\$40 range.



The restaurant's kitchen equipment was put up for bidding on the auction block, as is.



Mike Amodeo, on the ladder, and an assistant took more than four hours to sell off the entire contents of the once-thriving restaurant.

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# Habitat for Humanity opens store in Woodside

## Group's first household improvement center reaches city with proceeds going to home building

BY BILL PARRY

Habitat for Humanity will have a ribbon-cutting ceremony Saturday in Woodside at its first-ever ReStore in New York City.

The affordable home improvement center, located at 62-01 Northern Blvd., offers a variety of building materials, appliances, furniture, hardware and other discounted merchandise, nearly all donated and typically 50 percent to 80 percent off the original retail value.

Profits from the store directly support Habitat NYC in its mission to build affordable homes in the five boroughs. With the help of thousands of volunteers every year, Habitat NYC has served more than 380 families in New York City with permanent housing needs.

"The ReStore grand opening is a celebration of the new store, but more importantly it marks a major milestone for



Habitat for Humanity opens its first store in New York City Saturday with a grand opening in Woodside.

Photo by Bill Parry

Habitat NYC and its mission," Habitat NYC Chief Executive Officer Karen Haycox said. "At Habitat we strive to address the affordable housing

crisis in our city and with the ReStore we are proud to introduce this innovative business model that will help us strengthen our ability to serve

the community." In addition to acting as a self-sustaining funding source for Habitat NYC, the ReStore also protects the environ-

ment, officials say. Each year a ReStore can divert up to 309 tons of waste from landfills. Homeowners, contractors and businesses that donate items will receive a tax-deductible receipt.

"The ReStore is the perfect destination for New Yorkers to shop while directly supporting affordable housing," Habitat NYC Chairwoman Christine McGuinness said. "The store is a true example of reduce, reuse and recycle—it's an environmentally friendly way to improve your home while helping our organization build more homes for hardworking families."

The Habitat NYC ReStore grand opening event takes place Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The event is open to the public and will feature sales, giveaways and shopping.

Reach reporter Bill Parry by e-mail at [bparry@cnglocal.com](mailto:bparry@cnglocal.com) or by phone at (718) 260-4538.

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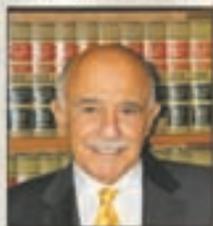
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# Borough Beat

COMPILED BY MICHAEL SHAIN



Christopher Rodriguez, 16, holds the Billie Jean King Junior Achievement Award at the City Parks Foundation's Tennis Benefit at the US Open. The money raised helps provide tennis lessons to 6,000 city kids. Courtesy of Valerie Victor



"I danced for nearly three hours straight!" says Council member Jimmy Van Bramer, with his staff at the Silent Disco in Hunters Point South Park. More than 1,000 people attended. Courtesy of Council member Van Bramer



Frank Williams (l) and James Williams (r), founders of Thomasina's, the catering hall on Linden Boulevard, celebrate its 20th anniversary with a gala and a proclamation from state Sen. Leroy Comrie. Photo by Nat Valentine



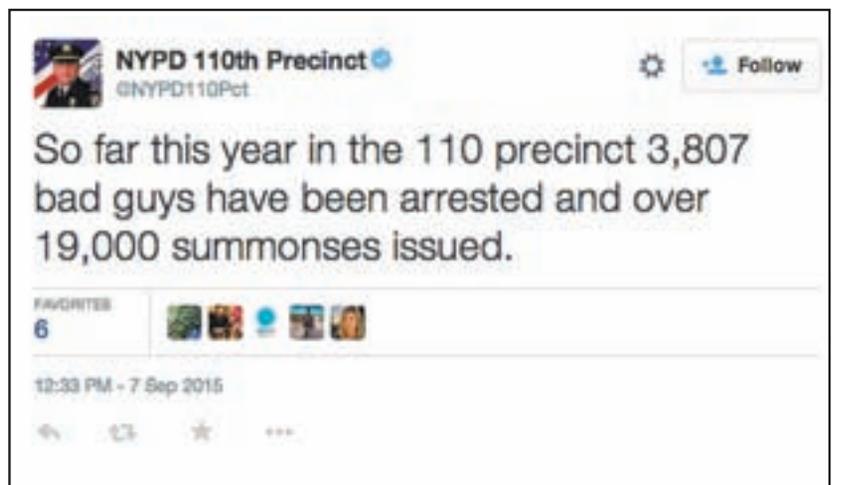
Community Affairs Det. Mark Costa of the 103rd Precinct provides the latest crime stats at the Greater Jamaica Development Corp. meeting. Photo by Walter Karling



Assemblyman Mike Miller (center in black shirt) cheers on the players at the final game of the season for the American Softball League, a league for developmentally challenged and handicapped adults, in Kissena Park. Courtesy of Assemblyman Miller



In the biggest year on record for tourism in the borough, the Queens Tourism Council's latest booth at the US Open is open for more business. Courtesy of Dominick Totino



You've got to love the cops at the 110 Pct. in Corona and Elmhurst. They gave the latest crime stats in a tweet this week. The numbers speak for themselves. Twitter

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# Federal money coming to shore up subway

BY PHILIP NEWMAN

The federal government will provide more than \$57 million to help insulate the New York City subways from tremendous damage such as that which occurred when Hurricane Sandy struck nearly three years ago.

"Sandy brought unprecedented damage and disruption to the New York City subway system—but now we are building the system back better and stronger than before," said Gov. Andrew Cuomo.

"This funding helps us move forward with critical upgrades that will keep the system running and keep travelers safe during an emergency. This is about strengthening our infrastructure with the next storm in mind and I am thankful for the support of our federal partners in this effort."

When Sandy struck the New York City metropolitan area Oct. 29, 2012, it left monumental damage to the New York City subways from a storm surge that flooded subway tunnels. The highly corrosive saltwater flooded subway tunnels, including rooms housing electric equipment such as signals, relays and communications.

MTA officials said the superstorm exposed a need for better and faster ways for transit officials to commu-



MTA Chairman Thomas Prendergast is getting \$57 million in federal money to repair Sandy damage and strengthen the communications system against another disaster.

nicate with crew members and strap-hangers in emergencies.

They said that even after three years and thousands of hours of labor repairing and restoring service to pre-

Sandy levels, the subway system has yet to really recover with many Sandy-related repairs yet to be made.

"These federal grants enable New York City Transit's recovery from a

devastating storm by funding critical improvements and repairs for a system that moves six million people a day," said MTA Chairman Thomas Prendergast.

"The MTA's goal is to make the subway system stronger and more resilient than ever if and when we face another historic storm like Sandy," Prendergast said. "To do that we look to our federal partners to help us protect a trillion-dollar asset that powers the New York region and we thank the FTA for acknowledging how vitally important the New York subway system is to the city and its people."

U.S. Rep. Gregory Meeks (D-Jamaica) said, "the MTA storm resiliency projects announced by Gov. Cuomo will go a long way to restore and improve the transit system to a level of quality that surpasses the pre-Sandy standards."

U.S. Rep. Joseph Crowley (D-Jackson Heights) also welcomed the funds.

"Hurricane Sandy's devastating impact on our city's infrastructure cannot be overstated," he said. "These much needed federal grants will go a long way toward improving and protecting our subways from future storms."

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# 7 train heads west

## 11th Avenue stop in Manhattan about ready to open

BY PHILIP NEWMAN

After nearly two years of delays, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority has announced that the No.7 subway line will finally make its inaugural run all the way from Main Street in Flushing to 11th Avenue on Manhattan's far west side.

The MTA said the ceremonial occasion for the \$2.4 billion extension would take place at the new subway station at 34th Street-Hudson Yards and 11th Avenue at 1 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 13.

MTA Chairman Thomas Prendergast, along with elected officials, will celebrate the occasion, then ride a special train only as far as Times Square.

Immediately afterward, the first regular No.7 will leave the new station on its run to Queens.

The No.7 extension will bring straphangers 1.5 miles beyond its original end of the line at Times Square.

The project was financed by the City of New York in a project that began during the administration of Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

The line's new farthest west station is in the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood, which is now a busy scene of construction with such projects as the



The No. 7 train inaugurates a new \$2.4 billion, 1.5 mile extension to 34th Street and 11th Avenue this week. Photo by Michael Shain

Hudson Yards Redevelopment Project in an area that was the largest undeveloped space left in Manhattan.

Many problems held up the completion date, including the diagonal elevators that were custom made by Maspero Elevatori in Italy. The elevators failed their first tests.

The project first included a second station at 10th Avenue and 41st Street but that was abandoned as it was too expensive.

This will be the second milestone ceremony for the project. Bloomberg took a ride to what would be the No.7's new west side terminus on Dec. 20,

2013 at a time when the completion of the project was thought to be close at hand. However, a series of delays followed.

The station will provide access to the Jacob Javits Convention Center, High Line and Hudson River Park.

The MTA estimates that the station will be used by a daily peak of around 35,000 straphangers per hour. It is only one of several major MTA projects going on now, including the Second Avenue subway and the East Side Access, which will bring the Long Island Rail Road into Grand Central Terminal.

# Abolishing Rikers is best reform: Dromm

BY BILL PARRY

The de Blasio administration has done "a good job" reforming Rikers Island and its culture of violence, according to City Councilman Daniel Dromm (D-Jackson Heights). But Dromm has a better way.

He wants the prison complex shut down completely and replaced with a new system of decentralized neighborhood jails. He said it is the best solution to the rampant brutality, sexual abuse and other criminal activity on Rikers Island.

"It's actually the first time I've mentioned abolishing Rikers," Dromm said. "It's something I've always considered and discussed with advocates, but I've never spoken publicly about it before. It's a good idea."

Dromm made the comments Tuesday during a City Hall rally against the mayor's proposal to limit visitation and physical contact between family members.

"I think it's a bad move because family visits are integral to lowering prisoner recidivism," Dromm said. "You want that kind of contact with your family so you remember how important it is to stay out of trouble, out of prison."

He said the main reason for abolishing the 413-acre prison is its size, too big to manage for the city Department of Correction, with its 11,400 detainees, 9,000 guards and 1,500 staff. Dromm would like to see the prison population dispersed to multiple locations.

"What you have now is a vast intersection where opposing gang members are housed in the same quarters," Dromm said. "If we split up the population and put them in smaller facilities closer to communities, you can manage the population better and the prisoners would be closer to their families."

Dromm said he has no plans to propose legislation that would abolish Rikers, but he does have his eye on the perfect facility—the mostly vacant Queens House of Detention in Kew Gardens.

"I know District Attorney Richard Brown wants it so he could consolidate his operation," Dromm said. "But is that really the best way to use it? Maybe we could take the entire youth population at Rikers Island, all the 16- to 21-year-olds, get them off that island with its brutality and into that building in the center of the borough. Closer to their families."

# Douglaston church turns 100 years old

BY TOM MOMBERG

St. Anastasia Roman Catholic Church in Douglaston is hosting its centennial celebration in October, but the parish will kick things off this weekend with a special Sunday mass which many past clergy and church members were expected to attend.

The Sunday mass is slated to begin promptly at noon. Church volunteer and events organizer Susan Cerezo said the mass will be a great way to reunite the extended church family.

"The pastors here only serve so many years, and everybody in the parish has had their favorites," Cerezo said. "Many have told me they



St. Anastasia Church in Douglaston is celebrating its 100th anniversary with several activities.

would love to meet with the clergy members who they had when they were growing up."

Current pastor Monsignor Anthony Sherman and his associate Reverend Dariusz

Strzelecki will lead the mass. And former clergy members who plan to attend include Pastor Emeritus Monsignor George Ryan, Pastor Emeritus  
*Continued on Page 55*

# Amtrak suit filed

BY GABRIEL ROM

The Queens parents of Justin Zemser, a Naval Academy midshipman killed in May's Amtrak derailment, are suing the railway company over his death for an unspecified amount. The family pledges to donate any payout to a commemorative scholarship in Zemser's name.

Zesmer's parents, Susan and Howard Zemser of the Rockaways, filed their suit in Pennsylvania federal court Tuesday, seeking unspecified damages.

The railroad's legal liability is capped at a total of \$200 million for all of the victims.

Zemser was in the middle of the third car of Amtrak Regional Train 188 as it headed north out of Philadelphia May 12 when it sped around a sharp curve and derailed. Zemser, who was 20, was killed at the scene. The crash killed seven others and injured more than 200.

A railroad service spokesman said, "It is Amtrak policy not to comment on pending litigation."

Reach reporter Gabriel Rom by e-mail at [grom@cn-global.com](mailto:grom@cn-global.com) or by phone at (718) 260-4564.

# Q GUIDE

TO THE ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT AND DINING

Sudoku 46  
Crossword Puzzle 48  
Arts & Entertainment 48  
Guide to Dining 53



## DOWN ON THE FARM

### Annual Queens County Fair in Floral Park offers visitors taste of the great outdoors near home

BY VALERIE VICTOR

The annual Queens County Fair and Corn Maze in Floral Park offers New Yorkers the

chance to have country fun without having to leave the Big Apple.

“For those viewing the entries, it is incredible to find

that even in our fast-paced city, people with such busy schedules find the time to make jam, jellies and pies using treasured family recipes,

A group makes its way through a previous incarnation of the Queens County Farm Museum corn maze. Photo courtesy Skyview Survey

grow beautiful flowers and create amazing artwork,” said Farm Museum Director Amy Boncardo.

Now in its 33rd year, the fair takes place Sept. 19-20.

And while there will be plenty of down-on-the-farm activities to keep visitors entertained, a couple of new performers with an international flair are on tap.

On Saturday, the fair will host Irish bands and dancers. Then on Sunday, German bands and dancers will perform in a beer garden.

In addition to new acts and

bands, the fair will feature its traditional blue ribbon competition in livestock, produce, home crafts, arts, and more.

Visitors have the opportunity to listen to music, try their hand at juggling, and see different exhibits yet the county fair still houses its traditional activities like pig racing, pie eating and corn husking contests.

Hayrides are also available to explore the farmland throughout the fair.

One of the main attractions is the 13th annual Amazing

*Continued on Page 52*

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**THEATER CALENDAR**



**PRODUCTIONS**

**"The Pillowman"** – Martin McDonagh's dark comedy from 2003 revolves around a writer living in a police state whose stories are similar to a series of grizzly child murders.  
**When:** Sept. 18 - Oct. 3  
**Where:** The Chain Theatre, 21-28 45th Road, Long Island City  
**Cost:** \$18/adults, \$15/LIC residents, seniors and students  
**Contact:** (646) 580-6003  
**Website:** www.variationstheatrecompany.com

**"Plaza Suite"** – Neil Simon's comedy set in a suite at the Plaza, follows the misadventures of three groups of guests.  
**When:** Oct. 2 - 4 and Oct. 9 - 11  
**Where:** Rockaway Theatre Co., The Post Theatre, Building T4, Fort Tilden, Rockaway  
**Cost:** \$15/adults, \$12/seniors and students  
**Contact:** (718) 374-6400  
**Website:** www.rockawaytheatrecompany.org

**"The Importance of Being Earnest"** – Subtitled "A Trivial Comedy for Serious People," Oscar Wilde's farce tweaks the social conventions of Victorian England. Oh, and is one of the funniest plays ever written.  
**When:** Oct. 23 - Nov. 8  
**Where:** Queens Theatre, 14 United Nations

Ave., Flushing Meadows Corona Park  
**Cost:** \$18  
**Contact:** (718) 760-0064  
**Website:** www.titantheatrecompany.com

**"Broadway Around the World: A Musical Revue"** – Queens' newest group, the Royal Star Theatre of ICC, presents a musical theater world tour.  
**When:** Oct. 23 - 24, at 8 pm; Oct. 25 at 2 pm  
**Where:** Immaculate Conception School Auditorium, 179-14 Dalny Road, Jamaica Estates  
**Cost:** \$15/donation  
**Contact:** (718) 428-8681  
**Website:** www.spotlightonstage.com/RoyalStarTheatre.htm

**MEETINGS**

**North Shore Playwrights Circle Meeting** – Formerly known as the Playwrights Circle of Great Neck, this open group features discussion, workshoping and writing exercises for playwrights in Queens and Nassau counties.  
**When:** Every other Wednesday, 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm  
**Where:** Atria, 96 Cutter Mill Road, Great Neck  
**Contact:** Muriel, (718) 225-7382

**sudoku**

Answers in Sports

Easy #19

		9		1				
			5	9	2	6		
8	5		4				3	
		8		4		9		6
6								2
2		1		8		5		
		6			9		5	7
		3	6	7	4			
				5		2		

Hard #19

		3		1			7	8	
			7						
6	2				3				5
						5	3		
7		1					9		8
		9	8						
8				4				3	6
							4		
	6	4				1		7	

Fill in the grids so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. There should be no repeats; which means that no number is repeated in any row, column or box.

Tips at [www.sudoku.com](http://www.sudoku.com)  
© Puzzles by Pappocom

Week 27

# It's a trip to Manila without leaving Queens

A melange of colonial influences flavor Filipino cuisine at Papa's Kitchen in Woodside

BY SUZANNE PARKER

We first encountered Beth Roa, owner of Papa's Kitchen at a pre-launch event for Smorgasburg Queens, the newest Saturday market in Long Island City.

## DINING OUT

She was proffering balut, those boiled fertilized duck eggs with the fully formed embryo inside, a much beloved street food of the Philippines.

Never known to back down from a gastronomic challenge, we scarfed the unborn quacker with gusto. If you don't look at what you're eating, the flavor is mostly umami and hard boiled egg white. We recommend not looking.

This left us craving to find out what else Roa has up her sleeve in her "Papa's Kitchen" in Woodside.

The surroundings at Papa's Kitchen define hole-in-the-wall. The 18-seater exists in



At Papa's Kitchen in Woodside, diners can order bihon, which are rice noodles stir fried with cabbage, carrots, garlic and lemon.

Photo by Suzanne Parker

a perpetual state of forlorn Christmas cheer. In late August it was sporting plastic evergreen wreaths and garland, strings of lights, and a blackboard with a hand-drawn Christmas tree, stockings, and holly, and "Peace on

Earth" was emblazoned along with a come-on for a 2015 Karaoke contest ending Jan. 21. It's safe to say no one comes here for the décor, but happily the food is another matter.

Filipino cuisine is a glorious mishmash of flavors. It

intermingles Chinese, Spanish, Malaysian, American and indigenous people's influences with local tropical ingredients. At Papa's Kitchen it all feels very homey. The food, all of which is served on white paper plates precisely lined with carefully cut palm leaves, just telegraphs authenticity.

Appetizers are an easy decision here. You can have lumpia or lumpia. That is to say you can have Filipino-style spring rolls with a spicy (Dynamite) or non-spicy (Shanghai) filling. They come as a chorus line of eight slender deep-fried rolls filled with ground pork and veggies. We recommend the Dynamite version, which is not overwhelming spicy and comes with a mayo-based dipping sauce. This would make the quintessential party hors d'oeuvre.

Pappa's serves no alcohol, but they do have an exceptionally thirst quenching citrus drink called "Mansi." It's a lemonade-like beverage made from calamansi juice, a citrus fruit native to the Philippines.

## IF YOU GO

### Papa's Kitchen

65-40 Woodside Ave. at 65th Place  
Woodside  
(718) 779-9191

**Price Range:** \$7.95-\$16.99

**Cuisine:** Homestyle Filipino

**Setting:** Tiny, unseasonal Christmas decorations

**Service:** Friendly and accommodating

**Hours:** Lunch and dinner

Tuesday-Sunday, Closed Monday

**Reservations:** Optional

**Alcohol:** No

**Parking:** Street

**Dress:** Casual

**Children:** Welcome

**Music:** Karaoke

**Takeout:** Yes

**Credit cards:** No

**Noise level:** Noisy when busy

It has the added benefit of counteracting anything spicy or greasy.

Papa's next menu category is "Filipino Pasta." "Pancit"

*Continued on Page 52*



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For the most up-to-date listing of events happening in Queens, check TimesLedger's website at [www.timesledger.com/sections/calendar](http://www.timesledger.com/sections/calendar)

## EVENTS

**NYC Parks Queens Bocce Tournament** – The annual citywide tournament stops in Queens for a day of bocce. The best teams will advance to the city championship on Staten Island held Sept. 26.  
**When:** Saturday, Sept. 12, from 8 am - 5 pm  
**Where:** Bocce Courts, Juniper Valley Park, Middle Village  
**Cost:** Free  
**Contact:** (718) 393-7370  
**Website:** [www.nycgovparks.org](http://www.nycgovparks.org)

**Bike New York: Bicycling Basics Class** – Learn how to adjust a helmet, perform simple mechanical inspections, shift gears and maneuver around common road hazards.  
**When:** Saturday, Sept. 12, from 10 am - 1 pm  
**Where:** Flushing Meadows Corona Park Aquatics Center  
**Cost:** Free

**Contact:** (212) 870-2080  
**Website:** [www.bike.nyc](http://www.bike.nyc)

**Honey Festival** – NYC Honey Week holds its fifth annual event with beekeeping demos, marketplace and activities for the kids on Rockaway Beach.  
**When:** Saturday, Sept. 12, from 10 am - 6 pm  
**Where:** Beach 97th Street and Boardwalk, Rockaway Beach  
**Cost:** Free  
**Contact:** 718-318-4000  
**Website:** [www.nychoneyweek.com](http://www.nychoneyweek.com)

**Circus Amok** – This one-ring circus combines tight-rope walking, juggling and acrobatics with experimental dance, puppetry and gender-bending performance art.  
**When:** Saturday, Sept. 12, from 1 pm - 4 pm  
**Where:** Socrates Sculpture Park, 32-01 Vernon Blvd., Long Island City  
**Cost:** Free  
**Contact:** (718) 956-1819

**Website:** [www.socratessculpturepark.org](http://www.socratessculpturepark.org)  
**Freshwater Fishing** – Join the Urban Rangers as they teach the ethics of fishing and the ecology of the waterways. Participants must attend a safety review led by a Ranger. Programs are on a first-come, first-served basis. All equipment is provided.  
**When:** Sunday, Sept. 13, from 1 pm - 3 pm  
**Where:** Kissena Park, 164th Street and Oak Avenue, Flushing  
**Cost:** Free  
**Contact:** (718) 352-1769  
**Website:** [www.nycgovparks.org](http://www.nycgovparks.org)

## MUSIC

**Regina Bonelli Blues Band** – Catch a late-summer blues concert as part of the LIC Landing Live series.  
**When:** Friday, Sept. 11, at 6:30 pm  
**Where:** LIC Landing Events Square, Hunters Point South Park, Long Island City  
**Cost:** Free  
**Contact:** (917) 282-4123  
**Website:** [www.hunterspointssouth.com](http://www.hunterspointssouth.com)

**"Moon in the Mirror"** – This world premiere of an opera-in-progress is the modern retelling of a Chinese myth about a woman who leaves her domestic life for the moon.  
**When:** Sunday, Sept. 13, at 3 pm  
**Where:** Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Blvd., Flushing  
**Cost:** \$5/suggested donation  
**Contact:** (718) 463-7700  
**Website:** [www.flushingtownhall.org](http://www.flushingtownhall.org)  
**"Elektra"** – New York Opera

Forum presents a concert of Richard Strauss' opera based on Sophocles' Greek tragedy. A complimentary wine-and-cheese reception with a chance to meet the artists follows the performance.  
**When:** Sunday, Sept. 13, at 3 pm  
**Where:** St. Luke's Church, 85 Greenway South, Forest Hills  
**Cost:** \$12/donation, \$10/ students and seniors donation  
**Contact:** (718) 268-7772  
**Website:** [www.stlukesforesthills.org](http://www.stlukesforesthills.org)

**2/3 Goat** – This Astoria-based band, led by a husband-wife team, presents a concert of their alt-country, bluegrass, blues and classic rock as part of the LIC Landing Live series.  
**When:** Friday, Sept. 18, at 6:30 pm  
**Where:** LIC Landing Events Square, Hunters Point South Park, Long Island City  
**Cost:** Free  
**Contact:** (917) 282-4123  
**Website:** [www.hunterspointssouth.com](http://www.hunterspointssouth.com)

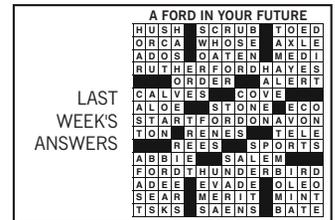
*Continued on Page 52*

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

TimesLedger Newspapers  
 Sept. 11-17, 2015

By Ed Canty

### A Bit of Rubble



#### Across

- "Hamlet" has five
- Deep cavity
- Fit \_\_\_\_ (be perfect on)
- Piglet's pal
- 747, e.g.
- Spanish pot
- A shade of beige
- Rajah's wives
- Actresses Ryan and Tilly
- Advice for rowing crews
- Above-the-rim action
- Compulsively curious
- Avian claws
- "Buffalo" Bill
- Ruin big-time
- Pad type
- Fleecing target
- Not far, with "a"
- "Crack" or "jack" follower
- "They got \_\_\_\_ him"
- Yield, as land
- Components of some PCs
- Like some vows or cows
- "Are not!" comeback
- Indifferent
- Woods and Nicklaus, e.g.
- Brylcream portion?
- "Happy Days" role
- "Animal House"

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14				15						16			
17					18						19		
20				21					22				
			23						24				
25	26	27					28	29					
30						31	32				33	34	35
36				37	38						39		
40				41							42		
				43					44	45			
46	47	48					49	50					
51					52	53					54	55	56
57						58					59		
60						61					62		
63						64						65	

- attire
- Brook
- Absinthe flavor
- Be on the payroll
- Grimm offering
- Activity that can wreck a hard disk
- Barrel bottom bit

#### Down

- Did the same
- James the actor
- " \_\_\_\_ Between Two Lovers" (#1 hit of 1977)
- Halt production
- Airport areas
- Longtime Supreme Court name
- Ballplayers in pinstripes
- Agitated condition
- Coordinate closely

- Girl in a tree
- Bars from the refrigerator
- "Delicious!"
- Stocking mishap
- Provide funding for
- 1/16 of a cup: Abbr.
- Singing voice
- Steal goods
- Old "What's My Line?" panelist
- Vocalist Yoko
- Benchmarks: Abbr.
- Even if, briefly
- Water server
- Jane Roe's defendant in a famous 70's court case
- "Brown \_\_\_\_ Girl"
- "Captain Blood" star Flynn

- Boxer order?
- Signed for a COD
- Jury-rig, with "together"
- Perfumed powder holder
- " \_\_\_\_ Wednesday"
- One way to fall
- Newspapers, TV, etc.
- Activity for young swingers?
- Misrepresent
- Judgment problem
- Baseball stats
- Check point?
- Loud laugh
- Fairy-tale menace
- Squealed

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# Variations Theatre opts for something black

Season veers toward the sober with 'The Pillowman' and reimagined 'Wait Until Dark'

BY KEVIN ZIMMERMAN

For its 2015-16 season Variations Theatre Group is heading to the dark side.

Next week its production of "The Pillowman" — a story that juggles artistic freedom within a police state with a series of grisly child murders — opens at the Chain Theatre in Long Island City.

Then in October a new version of "Wait Until Dark" — the tale of a blind woman living alone in a basement apartment being terrorized by a gang of criminals — begins performances.

Variations' Artistic Director Kirk Gostkowski realizes dark can be a hard sell when audiences seek out entertainment options, but he believes he can close the deal with his choices, especially "The Pillowman."

"I've been sitting on



Actors Paul Terkel (l-r), Deven Anderson and Kirk Gostkowski rehearse a scene from Variations Theatre Group's upcoming production of "The Pillowman."

Photo courtesy Variations Theatre Group

this one for a while," Gostkowski said. "It's a risk, but if we don't take risks, what are we doing this for?"

In Irish playwright Martin McDonagh's piece, police in a totalitarian state interrogate a writer about his stories and the similarities they have with a recent spate of gruesome child murders.

The play is basically three long scenes of the back-and-forth between the police and the writer.

For the actors the trick is mastering the rapid, rat-a-tat dialogue that reveals one disturbing detail after another, Gostkowski said. But the steady, slow burn of tension is interrupted throughout the proceed-

ings with the blackest of comedy.

"The worst moments, which happen about 15 times, are undercut with humor," Gostkowski said. "It's very funny in a dark way, and you hear the audience laughing. The audience needs that relief."

Although it was first produced in 2003, Gost-

**IF YOU GO**

**"The Pillowman"**

**When:** Sept. 18 through Oct. 3, Wednesday-Sunday at 8 pm, and Saturday-Sunday at 2 pm  
**Where:** The Chain Theatre, 21-28 45th Road, Long Island City  
**Cost:** \$18/advance, \$20/at door  
**Contact:** (866) 811-4111  
**Website:** www.variationstheatre.com

kowski thinks the play, with its examination of nature vs. nurture and questioning of artist responsibility, has a lot to say to today's audiences.

"It's so dark, and so real," Gostkowski said. "And it's really relevant again, dealing with how art influences people to do terrible things."

Once "The Pillowman" is up and running, Christina Perry will don a blindfold to begin rehearsing her part in "Wait Until Dark."

"I'll probably be black and blue by the time it's

done," Perry said.

Perry plays a recently blinded woman left alone to fight off a trio of thugs who invade her apartment looking for their drug stash.

The 1967 film, which starred Audrey Hepburn, was based on a 1966 stage production.

Variations' version has been newly adapted and now takes place in the 1940s.

And that stash? Instead of a doll filled with heroin, the bad guys are after a toy crammed with diamonds.

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# FARM FAIR

IF YOU GO

## Queens County Fair

**When:** Saturday, Sept. 19, and Sunday, Sept. 20, 11 am - 6 pm

**Where:** Queens Country Farm Museum, 73-50 Little Neck Parkway, Floral Park

**Cost:** Fair - \$9/adults, \$5/children 12 and under; Corn Maze - \$9/adults, \$5/children 4-11, Free/children 3 and under

**Contact:** (718) 347-3276

**Website:** www.queensfarm.org



The 32nd annual Queens County Fair happens Sept. 19-20 in Floral Park. Visitors can experience country charm and activities, including treating goats to alfalfa at the two-day event.



Juliet Mitchell (top) and Alexa DiNapoli fly through the air on a ride at a recent Queens County Fair.

Continued from Page 45

Maize Maze.

The maze, which is open weekends beginning Sept. 19 through Oct. 25, offers visitors of all ages the chance to get lost in the three-acre puzzle. The corn maze now features a new interactive design providing a different experience for annual visitors.

This year's theme is The Triple Crown.

"Families, office groups, friends, scout troops and the like enjoy the fun of competition," Boncardo said. "The maze is a great team building exercise and a fun bonding activity for families, giving kids and adults a chance to be part of a memorable maze ad-

venture."

Every maze foray begins with a maze orientation discussion called Stalk Talk explaining rules and outlining safety instructions. For a more challenging experience, Maze by Moonlight is offered on specific evenings when visitors may explore the maze at night using flashlights.

Tours of the farmhouse give background information on the farmland. The house dates back to 1697, residing on New York City's largest parcel of unaltered farmland. The farm is 47 acres of New York state's longest farmed land, including historic buildings, greenhouses, and planting fields.

The number of events

and activities available to Queens County Fair guests promise a rewarding experience for all, Boncardo said.

She points out that more than 40 percent of the annual air visitors are now regulars at the farm.

## Dining

Continued from Page 47

which is the Tagalog word for noodles, comes in three different styles. We chose "Bihon," which means rice noodles. It's a sort of Filipino lo mein, stir fried with cabbage, carrots, garlic and lemon. It is fairly bland, in and of itself, but shared among diners, makes a nice accompaniment to the other dishes.

Bicol Express is a pork dish, slow cooked in coconut milk, with veggies and serrano chilies. The coconut milk makes it satisfyingly rich, with much in common with some Thai dishes. The little bursts of heat from the serranos sneak up on you. Sitaw n Kalabasa is a vegetarian entrée marrying long beans to chunks of winter squash in a coconut milk sauce similar to the bicol, but without the heat.

Sinigang is a Filipino casserole whose base is a tart, tamarind broth. We opted for the fish version featuring

pompano. A pork version, Sinigang Na Baboy, can also be found on the menu.

Neither deep fried, nor steeped in coconut milk, it was the lightest and healthiest of our entrees. The broth had a pleasing tang and was packing heat. A whole pompano bathes in the broth along with chilies, okra, long beans and cabbage. It's a dish that is light enough to enjoy on a balmy summer evening or yet equally gratifying on a chilly autumn night.

There are no desserts listed on the menu, but chances are Roa has something tucked away in the kitchen to satisfy your sweet tooth. We were treated to Maja Blanca, a luscious pudding loaded with coconut.

## The Bottom Line

At Papa's Kitchen, Beth Roa offers a homey introduction to the delights of Filipino fare. You are encouraged to sing with, if not for, your supper, as karaoke is as much a part of the scene here as rice.



Lumpia, which are Filipino-style spring rolls, come with either a spicy or non-spicy filling at Papa's Kitchen in Woodside.

Photo by Suzanne Parker

## Arts

Continued from Page 48

### Quintet of the Americas

The Queens-based woodwind quintet presents "Another Realm, Unusual Musical Combinations," a concert of Chinese, Latin American, African and western traditional music.

**When:** Sunday, Sept. 27, at 1 pm

**Where:** Studio T-7 Gallery of Rockaway Arts Alliance, Fort Tilden, Rockaway

**Cost:** Free  
**Contact:** (718) 230-5189  
**Website:** www.quintet.org

## FILM

**Movie Night in Maspeth** - Why not "Let it Go" and catch a screening of the recent animated hit "Frozen."

**When:** Friday, Sept. 11, at 7:30 pm

**Where:** Maurice Park in Frank Principe Park, 54th and Maurice avenues, Maspeth

**Cost:** Free  
**Contact:** (718) 393-7370  
**Website:** www.nycgovparks.org

**"The Real Helen Keller"** - This film, directed by Liz Crow and Ann Pugh, aims to tell the true story of the writer,

radical activist, suffragette and socialist.

**When:** Sunday, Sept. 13, at 2:30 pm

**Where:** Kingsland Homestead, 143-35 37th Ave., Flushing

**Cost:** \$5/Queens Historical Society members, students and seniors; \$8/general admission

**Contact:** (718) 939-0647  
**Website:** www.queenshistoricalsociety.org

**CinemaLIC: "Annie Hall"** - Well, la-di-dah, check out a free screening of Woody Allen classic New York comedy.

**When:** Saturday, Sept. 19, at 7:30 pm

**Where:** LIC Landing Events Space, Hunters Point South Park, Long Island City

**Cost:** Free  
**Website:** www.nycgovparks.org

## KIDS & FAMILIES

### Hands-on History:

**Founding Fathers** - Celebrate the 228th anniversary of the signing of the Constitution by making an 18th-century wig and putting your own John Hancock on a replica of the document.

**When:** Saturday, Sept. 12, from noon - 3 pm

**Where:** King Manor Museum, Rufus King Park, Jamaica Avenue and 150th Street, Jamaica

**Cost:** Free  
**Contact:** (718) 206-0545  
**Website:** www.kingmanor.org

### Skats the Clown

Combining magic and clowning, Skats will keep audience members laughing as they try to figure out how he pulls off his tricks.

**When:** Saturday, Sept. 12, at 2 pm and 4 pm

**Where:** Forest Park Carousel, Woodhaven  
**Cost:** Free  
**Contact:** (718) 788-2676  
**Website:** www.nycgovparks.org

### Learn to Ride for Kids

This class uses the balance first method to help children learn how safely to ride their bikes.

**When:** Sunday, Sept. 13, from 11 am - 1 pm

**Where:** Albert H. Mauro Playground, Park Drive East and 73rd Avenue Terrace, Flushing Meadows Corona Park

**Cost:** Free, but pre-registration at www.bike.nyc is required.  
**Contact:** (718) 393-7370  
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Continued from Page 4

Centers for Disease Control. Workman was at Ground Zero four days a week for more than a year and a half.

"In 2007 my bones began to break and no one could figure out why," she said. "When they told me I had multiple myeloma, it was like I was hit by a Mack truck. The program got me a stem cell replacement and it changed everything. I was cancer free for five years before my relapse. If the program ends, I'll be all right, but a lot of others would surely die without the medications and treatments."

Without congressional action, the World Trade Center Health Program and the Victim Compensation Fund will expire next year, leaving more than 70,000 9/11 responders and survivors in all 50 states without the care and support they need to recover from 9/11-related illnesses.

Several of the afflicted survivors spoke during the rally,

including the current mayor of Spotswood, N.J., Nicolas Polisenio. He was a responder for Con Ed who worked to restore power in Lower Manhattan after the towers collapsed.

The married father of two children is now terminally ill with an auto-immune disease, relying on 23 medications daily. For the last four years, Polisenio has been hospitalized every 14 days for a procedure called IVIG, each treatment costing \$1,000.

Susan Herr was a computer programmer for Morgan Stanley on the 68th floor of the South Tower. Today she suffers from the WTC Cough, asthma, cancer, PTSD and some depression. She has problems sleeping, difficulty walking and breathing, and can no longer live alone.

"I thought the hardest day of my life was 9/11," Herr said. "I was wrong. Having chemotherapy and radiation at the same time is much harder."

The Zadroga Act was named for James Zadroga, the first NYPD officer whose death from respiratory disease was attributed to exposure to

the toxic dust in the rubble of the World Trade Center. His father Joe told the crowd that he would go to Washington and confront any lawmaker who stood in the way of the act's permanent extension.

"I don't want to speak to any representatives in your office," Zadroga said. "I want to speak to you personally and let you know what it's like to watch your son die over a five-year period with no support. And that's what's going to happen if this bill is not passed."

Neither Ramondino nor Workman regret their roles at Ground Zero 14 years ago.

"We couldn't wait to get down there and do our duty," Ramondino said. "Everyone wanted to be down there."

Workman remembers seeing workers and volunteers from every state and more.

"People came from all over the world to help us down there," she said. "How can we deny anyone of them the health care they need?"

Reach reporter Bill Parry by e-mail at [bparry@cnglocal.com](mailto:bparry@cnglocal.com) or by phone at (718) 260-4538.



Ellie Alter says the asylum seekers use urban agriculture as a "vehicle for psychological recovery" atop the Brooklyn Grange rooftop farm. Photo courtesy RIF

## Refugees

Continued from Page 5

"Sometimes it reminds them of home just the smell of the soil," she said. "Day after day of farming, good conversation, peace of mind, it all provides psychological healing. By the end of the season it feels like family, you bond over food."

The clients learn farming and other job skills and they become more fluent in English.

"Many find employment because of the connections made at Brooklyn Grange," Alter said. "Many of them come back to give talks at our monthly support groups, they share their success stories to empower the current group. It's really become quite a network."

RIF graduate Sikinika was granted asylum this year after fleeing to the United States in 2012 after her family was murdered in Haiti. Without asylum she was not allowed to work and sat around her Queens Village home "bored without anything to do" until African Services recommended the Urban Farm Project.

"It was a great experience meeting people from other countries and cultures," said Sikinika, a name she has adopted. "They taught me how to farm and after graduation Maria recommended me for my first full-time job at Whole Foods."

Now 27, Sikinika works in healthcare assisting patients with special needs. She was a nurse back in Haiti serving

in the obstetrics unit and she is studying for her nurse's license.

RIF has nearly 1,000 graduates since opening in 2007.

The mass exodus of refugees pouring into Europe in recent weeks is fueled by Syrians, with more than 4 million having fled during their nearly five-year-old civil war. In that time the United States has taken in only 1,500 Syrian refugees.

That's about to change.

International Rescue Committee President David Miliband called on the U.S. government to resettle 65,000 Syrian refugees before the end of 2016. State Department officials said the United States would likely accept 5,000 to 8,000 refugees from Syria by the end of 2016.

Blacque-Belaire does not expect an influx of Syrian refugees in the Middle Eastern neighborhoods in western Queens, however.

"I frankly don't think they'll be settled in New York because recently most resettled refugees are sent to cheaper states such as Vermont and Maine," she said.

Syrian refugees are vetted in Jordan or Turkey in a lengthy process and they are then channeled to come to the United States through agencies such as Catholic Charities whose job it is to house them and find them jobs.

"The Syrians who will be coming will be helped by designated resettlement agencies, but if any Syrians manage to come on their own, we will welcome them and help them to legalize and establish themselves in New York."

## Anastasia

Continued from Page 44

Monsignor Michael Cantley, Rev. Edward Kachurka, Rev. William McLaughlin, Rev. Chris Piasta, Rev. Matteo Rizzo and Rev. Anthony Rucando.

The 100th anniversary events will officially take place in October, however—following the centennial of the dates on which the church opened: Oct. 17 and Oct. 18.

The church has scheduled a cocktail hour on Satur-

day, Oct. 17, at 7 p.m. in Friar Smith Hall, followed by dinner and dancing. Cerezo said the event would be limited to the first 150 people due to space constraints. Those interested should call the rectory at 718-631-4454 and submit payment by Tuesday, Sept. 15. The tickets cost \$75 for couples or \$40 per person.

The Centennial Closing Mass is slated for noon on Sunday, Oct. 18, led by Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio of Brooklyn. Following the mass, St. Anastasia has planned a full afternoon of family-friendly

events, including an antique car show, face painting, jugglers, clowns, balloon making and door prizes. In addition to food supplied by church volunteers, there will also be hot dog, popcorn and cotton candy vendors.

Those coming to the afternoon celebration Sunday are being encouraged by organizers to dress in circa 1900s fashions.

Reach reporter Tom Momborg by e-mail at [tmomborg@cnglocal.com](mailto:tmomborg@cnglocal.com) or by phone at (718) 260-4573.

## Peeples

Continued from Page 9

of minority- and women-owned businesses in the project, he said, suggesting 50 percent participation or 30 percent of the ownership structure.

"All of a sudden now, you're taking this economic activity that may not accrue enough affordable housing quick enough

but now you're providing jobs to New York City-based businesses," he said.

Wiley Norvell, a deputy press secretary for de Blasio, said the developer is seeking to create an M/WBE capacity-building fund to implement programs that support eligible businesses, especially in Queens, and that the goals for the project are 25 percent M/WBE hiring and 25 percent M/

WBE contracts, he explained.

Peeples also said he supports the push by black and Latino leaders for 35 percent M/WBE participation in the LaGuardia project, but that the goal should be higher.

Reach reporter Madina Toure by e-mail at [mtoure@cnglocal.com](mailto:mtoure@cnglocal.com) or by phone at (718) 260-4566.

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# Sports



Christ the King quarterback Davis Navas will lead a balanced offensive attack.

Photo by Joseph Staszewski

## Mosby keeps his cool

### Campus Magnet QB powers team to 42-20 victory



Quarterback Que Ruan Mosby scored six touchdowns in Campus Magnet's win.

Photo by William Thomas

BY BRANDON MAUK

Que Ruan Mosby is living up to his nickname—"Cucumber"—on the football field.

"We call him 'Cucumber' because he's so cool," Campus Magnet coach Eric Barnet said. "I think he's one of the best quarterbacks in the city."

The senior quarterback scored six touchdowns to lead Campus Magnet to a 42-20 victory over visiting Kennedy in both teams' PSAL City Conference football opener Saturday.

Mosby racked up 250 total yards on the ground and in the air in the game, as he teamed up with running back Antwan Lewis to form a relentless rushing attack. Mosby ran for four touchdowns and threw for two. It was a great way to begin a year that the Bulldogs believe could turn into something special.

"It feels real good to start this way in the season," Mosby said. "It shows what we can do for the rest of the season, and hopefully make it and do the same in the playoffs."

Things didn't start well, however. Kennedy scored on

the game's first play from scrimmage on a 40-yard touchdown run by Mario Agyen. But Campus Magnet responded with an 11-yard touchdown pass from Mosby to Bryan Mariner, who had three catches for 79 yards.

After forcing a turnover on downs at their own 37, the Bulldogs scored again on a 14-yard touchdown run by Mosby to put his team up 15-6 early in the second quarter. Campus Magnet scored 20 straight points until Kennedy posted a fourth-quarter safety and touchdown.

Kennedy quarterback P.J. Franklyn and Agyen combined for 221 rushing yards and two touchdowns. Agyen posted another long touchdown on a 39-yard rush to cut the Campus Magnet lead to 15-12 with 7:19 to go in the second quarter. Barnet expects his team to do a better job against opposing offenses.

"We want to shut people down," he said. "So giving up [20 total] points, I'm not excited. Those are things we have to correct, so we have to figure out a way to get going with that."

His defense made key plays

right before halftime. After Mosby's third touchdown, it forced fumbles on consecutive drives. The second led to a touchdown run by Mosby that put the Bulldogs up 27-12 at the break.

Campus Magnet put the game out of reach early in the second half, with a touchdown run by Mosby and another Kennedy turnover on downs, this time just seven yards shy of the end zone. For good measure, Mosby ran for his final score on fourth and two from the 14-yard line to provide the final margin.

"We work hard, we just had to do what we had to do," said Justin Pierre-Louis. He caught one of Campus Magnet's touchdown passes and helped slow down Kennedy's offense at cornerback.

Unlike in recent years, Campus Magnet is off to a fast start and will look to carry that momentum into a Week 2 matchup with Midwood.

"It means a lot, because we didn't win the first game for like two to three years," Pierre-Louis said. "We've always had to come from behind, 0-4, 0-5. We're 1-0 this year."

## Revamped Royals get on the fast track

BY BRANDON MAUK

Christ the King's football team had its best campaign since 2010 last season, finishing 6-3 and making an appearance in the CHSFL Class AA playoffs. But this year, the Royals are hungry for even more. CK believes it has the tools to improve after adding players from a junior varsity team that went 11-1 and reached the Class AAA final to a strong returning core.

"Going into the second year, it looks a lot better," coach Jason Brown said. "We have a lot of talent coming from the JV. We have a real promising team."

Many of his players are a bit bolder with their goals for 2015.

"I expect to win the chip,

nothing less," said senior linebacker Matthew Grizzle. "That's what we're aiming for."

Christ the King intends on beating teams with speed on both sides of the ball and coach Brown is focused on designing one-on-one schemes to his players' benefit.

The kids up from the JV who will play a big role include defensive backs Randy Pringle and Adrian Velez-Tolson as well as running backs Elyjah Campbell and Harrison Abreu. The Royals' versatile athletes provides the team with the opportunity to be very balanced in their attack, giving them the ability to be a speed or power running team.

"It's hard to scout or try to see what we're trying to do, *Continued on Page 61*

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# A singer lives her dream on the US Open stage



Joseph Staszewski  
Block Shots



Madison Zamor on stage at the US Open

AP

Madison Zamor realized a different type of US Open dream.

Thousands of kids flock to Flushing every summer, each of them envisioning him or herself as a champion like Serena Williams, Roger Federer, Maria Sharapova or Rafael Nadal. During the Queens Village resident's trip there last year, she saw herself in a different role—performing in front of the capacity crowd.

"My mom actually mentioned it to me while we were watching the match," the 12-year-old Zamor said. "She was like, 'Oh, would you ever want to sing the national anthem or 'America the Beautiful' on center court like that?'"

She had to think about it for moment before answering: "Totally."

That dream came true when Zamor sang "America the Beautiful" before Novak Djokovic's match against Andreas Haider-Maurer at Arthur Ashe Stadium on Sept. 2. She was one of a dozen kids selected from auditions to perform at the US Open. Her opportunity also came on the day the 100-year anniversary of the event was celebrated in Queens.

"The smile on her face said it all," Madison mother's, Sara, said. "She was just thrilled to pieces."

It was the biggest crowd

Zamor had ever been in front of and her first time really going it alone. The veteran performer, who got into the business at the age of 9, held the role of Kayla in the Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacular for three years. She has also appeared on the HBO series "The Leftovers" and NBC's "Law & Order SVU." She is currently the voice of Kira on Nick Jr.'s "Zack and Quack."

That Wednesday night at Arthur Ashe Stadium was

unlike anything she'd every experienced. There was no fellow performer to pick you up, no second take. It is just you, the crowd and your voice.

"In a situation like this, when you have 20,000-plus people and just you, it is all on you to deliver," Sara Zamor said. "She was nervous a little bit, but when she walked out you weren't able to tell."

Zamor, who attends Our Lady of Lourdes grammar school, skipped watching Ve-

*Continued on Page 61*

# Bayside season gets strong start

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Shariff Abukari is off to quite a start.

The Bayside quarterback's five-touchdown day led his team to a 34-12 win over visiting Sheepshead Bay in both team's PSAL Bowl Conference football opener last Saturday.

The senior completed 11 of 18 passes for 250 yards. Elijah Walcott (86 yards) and Robert Williams combined for 121 yards receiving and two scores each. Jason Benton added a 65-yard touchdown reception. Walcott also recovered a fumble and Elijah Rimpel added eight tackles.

**Benjamin Cardozo 10, Bryant 0:** Miguel Ritoe went 4 for 10, passing for 30 yards and two touchdowns for Cardozo. He also ran for 39 yards and a rushing score. Edgar Rodriguez Reyes and Terry Moreau both recorded seven tackles, including a sack.

**Fort Hamilton 44, Flushing 0:** Tajmaleek Beckett completed 17 of 28 passes for 230 yards for Flushing. Carlyle Kent Jr. caught 10 passes for 121 yards. Troy Booker rushed for 154 yards and three touchdowns on 14 carries to lead Fort Hamilton.

**Far Rockaway 34, Information Technology 8:** Quarterback Jaquan Miller posted 189 yards of total offense and scored twice on the ground and twice in the air for Far Rockaway. Chaki Hurdle carried the ball three times for 65 yards and a score. Roy Joseph Jr. and Tyreke Johnson combined for 95 yards

and each caught touchdown passes. Jahron Gayle made 12 tackles. Angel Cardoso paced Information Technology with 111 rushing yards on 11 carried Kaheem Newell added a score on the ground.

**Long Island City 20, KIPP NYC 0:** Wilton Caldron completed 10 of 21 passes for 248 yards and a touchdown pass to Jose Batista for Long Island City. Batista caught two passes for 100 yards. Nazeem Carthen and Dayshawn Smalls combined for 86 yards on the ground, with each of them making one score. Smalls, Austin Campbell and Nelvin Rosario each recovered a fumble on defense.

**Jamaica 44, Mott Haven 14:** Garfield McDonald carried the ball 20 times for 231 yards and two scores for Jamaica. Samuel Jules added 158 yards and a touchdown on 11 carries. Chisom Enekeuchi made five tackles, Joshua Jones recovered a fumble and Wayn O'Hare Reid added an interception.

**John Adams 14, Columbus 8:** Anthony Gray carried the ball seven times for 52 yards and a touchdown for John Adams. Edward Rios added 55 yards on the ground and Chris Rios had 23-yard touchdown grab on a pass by Antwon James. Dashawn Anderson made 11 tackles, including three sacks.

**Lehman 14, Springfield Gardens 0:** Corwyn Ellis completed 7 of 16 passes for 77 yards for Springfield Gardens. Christopher Clarke carried the ball 10 times for 46 yards.



Bayside High quarter Shariff Abukari

Twitter

Easy #19								
4	6	9	8	1	3	7	2	5
3	1	7	5	9	2	6	4	8
8	5	2	4	6	7	3	9	1
7	3	8	2	4	5	9	1	6
6	4	5	9	3	1	8	7	2
2	9	1	7	8	6	5	3	4
1	8	6	3	2	9	4	5	7
5	2	3	6	7	4	1	8	9
9	7	4	1	5	8	2	6	3

Hard #19								
4	3	5	1	9	6	7	8	2
1	9	7	5	8	2	6	4	3
6	2	8	4	3	7	1	9	5
2	8	6	9	7	5	3	1	4
7	4	1	2	6	3	9	5	8
3	5	9	8	1	4	2	6	7
8	1	2	7	4	9	5	3	6
9	7	3	6	5	8	4	2	1
5	6	4	3	2	1	8	7	9

Week 27

# All that Jaz: Scholarship offers pile up for Brunson

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Jasmine Brunson showed apprehensive college coaches what they had been asking for all along this summer, and the scholarship offers came rolling in.

There were questions about the Mary Louis senior guard's mid-range jumper and her ability to use her left hand. Coaches wanted to see that she could be more than just a volume scorer who can get to the basket at will.

Brunson proved she could do all of that and more playing for her Positive Direction travel team at the Run for the Roses event in Kentucky and Battle in the Boro in Tennessee in mid-July.

It was there that the 5-foot-7 Brunson showed off her physical skills, as well as her toughness and leadership when her team struggled.

"No matter how much we were down she just kept going," TMLA and Positive Direction Coach JoAnn Arbitello-Pinnock said. "They loved her from a mentality standpoint."

Brunson entered the summer with offers from St. Peter's, Stony Brook, Fairleigh Dickinson and Lipscomb. After her strong showing this summer, she heads into her senior season with nine more. Rice, North Carolina A&T, Marshall, Hofstra, Providence, Detroit, Niagara, Minnesota and Howard have all extended scholarships Brunson's way. It leaves her feeling that all her hard work has paid off.

"It meant I was doing my job, because I was waiting on those schools," Brunson said. "I did something right."

She has already taken an unofficial visit to Hofstra and will visit Minnesota, Rice and North Carolina A & T in September. If all goes well, she expects to sign with a school in November.

Until then, Brunson continues to improve her game with trainer Priscilla Edwards, a former St. John's women's basketball assistant coach. Brunson never misses a session, even when she's feeling a little under the weather. She takes challenges to heart and

each drill is done with intensity and purpose.

"Jaz wants to get it done," Arbitello-Pinnock said. "If you tell her you want her to touch the rim by September, she will work at it. Her work ethic is incredible."

The results of that work ethic showed in her last two seasons at Mary Louis, after transferring from Bayside. She led the Hilltoppers to a CHSAA Junior Varsity title as a sophomore and averaged 16.0 points, six rebounds, four assists and three steals per contest last year on the varsity.

Her first year playing in the top division in Brooklyn/Queens showed her the level of play that must be consistently maintained to be successful at the highest level.

"It just meant you couldn't take any games off," she said. "Everything is going to be tough. Whether you are playing the worst team or the best team, you have to constantly go out and play."

It is all Brunson has done and it has reaped benefits as her college choices have ex-



Mary Louis guard Jasmine Brunson saw her college stock skyrocket this summer. Photo by Joseph Staszewski

panded. "It's crazy," Brunson said. "I didn't picture it for myself, but I know I worked hard enough to be in this position. It's fun. I am enjoying it."

## Block Shots

Continued from Page 57

nus Williams' match earlier in the night to keep herself focused on her performance. Once she stepped out there she fed off the crowd's energy and then blocked the people out before delivering a rendition of "America The Beautiful" that earned her cheers and plenty of compliments afterward.

"I don't think I have ever had an experience like that," Madison Zamor said.

It's one that she's worked and sacrificed for. Like a kid who dedicated themselves to sports, you miss some

time with your friends, some trips to the beach or a day at movies. It's tough sometimes, Madison Zamor admits, but meeting new people can be just as fun.

So can new experiences. That Wednesday night at the Open is one Madison would love to do again. Her mother called it "magical" and wished she could relive it live without having to hold up her iPhone to record for future days.

A dream that started in the seats of the US Open became real on its biggest stage, one Madison handled well.

"It felt amazing," Madison Zamor said. "I can't think of any other word to describe it."

## Christ the King

Continued from Page 60

because we hit you from all kinds of angles," Brown said.

He is also experimenting with using players like Giovanni Downie, also a running back, in the slot at receiver to create favorable matchups. Senior Lorenzo Worrell leads the offensive line. Many players are used on both sides of the ball.

Getting all of that talent involved on offense is something senior quarterback David Navas is more than ready to take on.

"With us coming up and building

team chemistry in preseason and off-season, we're going to have a successful year," he said.

Brown's approach on defense is very similar to his offense. He has several fast defensive backs up from the JV and senior linebacker Brent Priestler to make life tough on opposing receivers.

"We know the offense is going to move the ball, so we just want to do our job," Grizzle said. "Got to get the offense the ball as soon as possible."

Christ the King believes this team is deep enough to reestablish itself as a power in the CHSFL, starting Friday night against last year's 'A' champion Fordham Prep.

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SHUART STADIUM AT HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY

Continued from Page 1

and its athletic fields.

Avella introduced a bill, which passed the Senate, that would require the SCA to include community boards, residents and elected officials in the school placement process.

In an interview Wednesday after the meeting, Avella said he is upset about the deal being signed despite strong community opposition and after he spoke with City Schools Chancellor Carmen Fariña.

He also said the president of the Bayside Jewish Center promised to arrange a meeting with the board of directors to discuss the project.

"Obviously they haven't gotten the message," he said, "so I'm going to continue to pursue this as an issue not only generally with the legislation but also locally with this specific site."

City Councilman Paul Vallone (D-Bayside) said that his office learned late of the deal as well, but noted that the SCA and the DOE have involved the

community, which will determine the structure and course offerings of the school.

"We have to work aggressively to make sure that the SCA and the DOE stick with their commitment to listen to the local community as to what type of school we would like for our children here," Vallone said.

Jason Fink, the DOE's deputy press secretary, said the site is under public review and that there is no cost estimate at this time.

"We are continuing to engage with community members as well as local stakeholders and elected officials as the process moves forward," Fink said.

Vallone said a meeting with the DOE, SCA, community board and civic leaders to discuss the contract will take place in the next two weeks.

Friends of Bayside High School, a community and alumni association, circulated a petition opposing the project with more than 3,200 signatures.

The group's vice president, David Solano, said there is no need for a high school in the

area or in the borough and that the community should keep track of the project, citing traffic and safety concerns.

"I think that we as a community and members need to keep an eye on what their progress is going to be," Solano said.

Laura James, CB 11's first vice chairwoman and co-chairwoman of the Education Committee, said two alternate locations were suggested in the budget committee: the Time Church next to the Little Neck Car Wash and the Creedmoor site.

"We did that immediately following the meeting where this was discussed and we have not heard anything back," James said. "They told us that they were looking into it."

Michael Athy, principal of Bayside HS, voiced his opposition to the proposed high school.

"I apologize on behalf of the DOE," Athy said. "Don't hate us all."

Reach reporter Madina Toure by e-mail at [mtoure@cnglocal.com](mailto:mtoure@cnglocal.com) or by phone at (718) 260-4566.

## Safety

Continued from Page 4

from the failure-to-yield law.

Miller said there are already investigating agencies that respond and investigate any time there is a fatality involving an MTA worker and that the settlement allows bus drivers to defend themselves.

"I genuinely think that we do probably a little more legislating than we should and we should do more educating and less legislating," Miller said.

In May, City Councilman Rory Lancman (D-Hillcrest) introduced a bill seeking clarification of how law enforcement proves that a driver did not act carefully.

"We don't want people to be arrested and put in jail unless they are really doing something that is negligent or reckless and deserves being put through the criminal justice system," Lancman said. "The law needed to be

clarified so that it was applied fairly and the cops can arrest people who really are being reckless and pedestrians can get the protection they really need."

Wiley Norvell, a spokesman for de Blasio, said the city has prosecuted about 38 due care cases and that six involved bus drivers.

Norvell said the settlement simply clarifies a practice the city has always undertaken, although he said TWU believes the city was acting otherwise.

Mayor Bill de Blasio said the law helps keep pedestrians safe.

"This settlement makes explicit what the city, the NYPD and district attorneys mean by 'due care,' and the standard we are using as we implement this law," de Blasio said.

Reach reporter Madina Toure by e-mail at [mtoure@cnglocal.com](mailto:mtoure@cnglocal.com) or by phone at (718) 260-4566.

## Molotov

Continued from Page 1

complete the program, the DA said she would have had to serve one year in prison.

The damage from the 2014 fire was not severe, but the three people inside the house were hospitalized after inhaling smoke, police said at the time. The target of the attack was put the fire out with a pot of water, which helped prevent the blaze from becoming fatal, Queens DA Richard Brown said in February.

Surveillance footage

showed Barashy approaching his friend's residence with a gas can and seconds later showed him running to a waiting car, the DA said.

Barashy is currently serving between five and 10 years in prison for third-degree felony arson after being sentenced in February, the DA said.

Barashy was previously convicted in the drive-by shooting of a Queens Supreme Court judge's home in 2008 and was charged with attempted murder, arson and six counts of reckless endangerment, according to court



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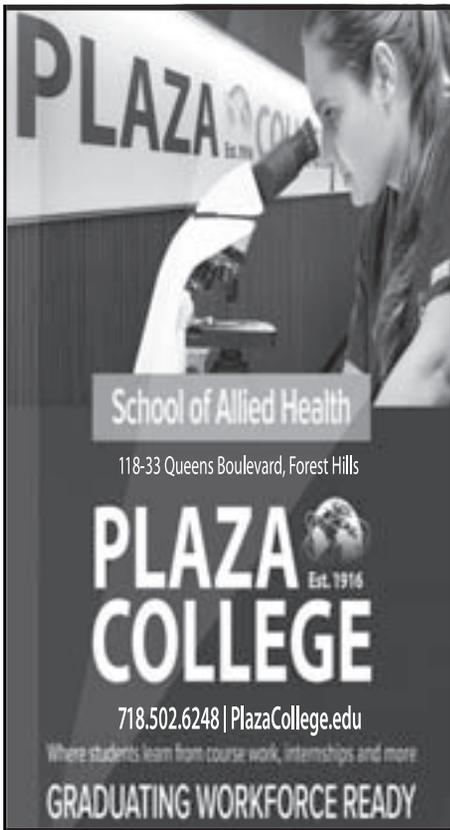


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## LEGAL NOTICES

### LEGAL

**169 Jamaica LLC.** Arts of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 06/23/15. Off. loc.: Queens Co. SSNY des. as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC, 198-37 Jamaica Ave., Hollis, NY 11423. Purpose: General.

**361 St Nicholas LLC** Arts of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 7/6/15. Office in Queens Co. SSNY design. agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served & shall mail process to 361 St Nicholas Ave, Ridgewood, NY 11385. Purpose: General.

**38-29 BELL BLVD. REALTY LLC** Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 6/11/15. Office in Queens Co. SSNY design.

Agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to C/O George Georges 144-30 34th Ave Flushing, NY 11354. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

**43-12 Broadway, LLC** Arts of Org. filed SSNY 12/22/05 Office: Queens Co SSNY design agent of LLC upon whom process may be served & mail to 8 Glenwood Rd Roslyn Harbor NY 11576 General Purpose

Cai & Yu LLC Arts of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 8/3/15. Office in Queens Co. SSNY design. agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served & shall mail process to 4526 Robinson St, Flushing, NY 11355. Purpose: General.

### LEGAL

**B2CONTROLS LLC** Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 8/3/15. Office in Queens Co. SSNY design. Agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to The LLC 36-24 37th St 2nd Fl Long Island City, NY 11101. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

**Dtwo Graphics LLC** Arts of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 1/28/15. Office in Queens Co. SSNY design. agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served & shall mail process to C/O Illona Burgess, 259-27 Craft Ave, Rosedale, NY 11422. Purpose: General.

**Excellence Accounting Services, LLC** Arts of Org. filed SSNY 7/9/15 Loc: Queens Co SSNY design. agent of LLC upon whom process may be served & mail to 72-32 Broadway #403 Jackson Heights NY 11372 General Purpose.

**FOREST LEAP, LLC** Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 6/17/15. Office in Queens Co. SSNY design. Agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to C/O Xinyu Zhao 67-59 Grotton Street Forest Hills, NY 11375. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

**MAJ EMPANADAS LLC.** Art. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 02/16/10. Office: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 79-17 Roosevelt Avenue, Jackson Heights, NY 11372. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

**M&J 328 LLC** Arts of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 7/6/15. Office in Queens Co. SSNY design. agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served & shall mail process to 51-16 Jacobus St, Elmhurst, NY 11373. Purpose: General.

**Notice of Formation: American Yue-Xiang-Gui Restaurant Management Group LLC** Arts of Org. filed with SSNY 8/05/2015. Office in Queens Co. SSNY design. agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served & shall mail process to AMERICAN YUE-XIANG-GUI RESTAURANT MANAGEMENT GROUP LLC 133-38 SANDFORD AVENUE STE 20E FLUSHING, NY 11355. Purpose: General

**Notice of Formation of Astoria Atlas Holdings, LLC.** Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 5/20/09. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Sylvor & Richman, LLP, 122 E. 42nd St., Ste. 4400, NY, NY 10168. Purpose: any lawful activity.

### LEGAL

**Notice of Formation of FOCUS MARKETING MANAGEMENT LLC** Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 04/17/15. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Corporation Service Co., 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207, regd. agent upon whom and at which process may be served. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

**NOTICE OF FORMATION** of limited liability company (LLC). Name: **K-MOBILE LLC.** Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 02/26/2015. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: NISHANT GARG 253-25 UNION TPKE GLEN OAKS, NY 11004. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

**NOTICE OF FORMATION** of limited liability company (LLC). Name: **HOME FLIP ADVISOR, LLC.** Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 06/12/2015. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: LUIS V. BRIONES, JR. 62-95 SAUNDERS STREET APT. # 6G REGOR PARK, NY 11374. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

**NOTICE OF FORMATION** of limited liability company (LLC). Name: **T2 MARKETING GROUP LLC.** Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 08/04/2015. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: TIMOTHY TAYLOR 118-17 UNION TURNPIKE FOREST HILLS, NY 11375. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

**NOTICE OF FORMATION** of limited liability company (LLC). Name: **100 AVENUE HOUSE, LLC.** Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 08/03/2015. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: ROSEMARY JACKSON 3 YALE DRIVE MANHASSET, NY 11030. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

**The Algiers of Rockaway NY, LLC** Article of Organization filed with SSNY on 7/28/2015. Office in Queens County. SSNY designated agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to 121 15th Street, Apt D1, Garden City, NY 11530. Purpose: Any lawful act

### LEGAL

**Notice of Qualification of SILENTLY, LLC** Appl. for Auth. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 07/01/15. Office location: Queens County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 02/06/15. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to c/o Corporation Service Co. (CSC), 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207-2543. DE addr. of LLC: CSC, 2711 Centerville Rd., Ste. 400, Wilmington, DE 19808. Cert. of Form. filed with DE Secy. of State, Div. of Corps., PO Box 898, Dover, DE 19903. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

**Notice of Qualification of STEINBECK LLC** Appl. for Auth. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 08/20/15. Office location: Queens County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 08/05/15. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to c/o Corporation Service Co., 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207-2543. DE addr. of LLC: 2711 Centerville Rd., Ste. 400, Wilmington, DE 19808. Cert. of Form. filed with Jeffrey W. Bullock, Secy. of State of the State of DE, Townsend Bldg., 401 Federal St., #3, Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

**Sapphire Painting & Decorating LLC,** a domestic LLC, filed with the SSNY on 5/18/15. Office location: Queens County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to The LLC, 154 44 Riverside Dr., Whitehouse, NY 11357. General purpose.

**V AND L, FOREST, NYC,** LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 8/24/15. Office in Queens Co. SSNY design. Agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to The LLC 6296 Forest Ave Apt #1 Ridgewood, NY 11385. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

**VOUDOU GROUP LLC** Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 07/30/2015. Office in Queens Co. SSNY design. agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to 30-13 30 St., Apt 3B, Astoria, NY 11102, which is also the principal business location. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

**ZSTAR, LLC.** Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 03/16/2015. Office loc: Queens County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Elizabeth Marquez, 5510 39th Ave., Woodside, NY 11377. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose.

### LEGAL

Waterview Nursing Care Center, 119-15 27th Avenue, Flushing, N.Y. 11354: This facility does not discriminate in admission or retention or care of its residents because of race, creed, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, source of payment, marital status or sexual preference.

### LEGAL

**SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK** Index No.: **7185/2015** COUNTY OF QUEENS Summons filed : July 20, 2015 County as place of trial:Queens HONGQIN WANG basis of venue: Plaintiff's Residence. Plaintiff, -against- SAI KUEN LI, Defendant. **SUMMONS WITH NOTICE** plaintiff resides at 136-35 Maple Ave Apt 2F Flushing, NY 11355 **ACTION FOR A DIVORCE** To the above named defendant: SAI KUEN LI .YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to serve a notice of appearance or answer on the Plaintiff's Attorney(s) within twenty (20) days after the service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service (or within thirty (30) after the service is complete if this summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York); and in case of your failure to appear, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the notice set forth below. ... NOTICE: The foregoing summons is served upon you by publication pursuant to an order of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of Queens, dated August 14, 2015, and filed in the office of the County Clerk of Queens County at 88-11 Sutphin Blvd, NY 11435. The nature of this action is to dissolve the marriage between the parties pursuant to NY Domestic Relations Law 170(7) upon the grounds that the relationship between the husband and wife has broken down irretrievably for a period of at least six months. The relief sought is a judgment of absolute divorce in favor of the Plaintiff dissolving the marriage between the parties in this action. The nature of any ancillary or additional relief demanded is: Plaintiff may resume use of her prior surname Such other and different relief as the Court may deem just, proper and equitable. ... **NOTICE CONCERNING CONTINUATION OF HEALTH COVERAGE PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that once a judgment of divorce is signed in this action, both you and your spouse may or may not continue to be eligible under each other's health insurance plan, depending on the terms of the plan. Dated: July 20, 2015 Stony Brook, NY 11790. Yours, .....,Benjamin L. Herzweig, Esq. ....Attorney for

### LEGAL

plaintiff ..PO Box 662, Stony Brook, NY 11790 (631) 447-8838 .Email: benherzweig@hotmail.com.

### LEGAL

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED MERGER** Notice is hereby given that Preferred Bank, Los Angeles, California ("Preferred"), has made application to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation for its written consent to merge United International Bank, located in Flushing, New York, California ("UIB"), with and into itself, under the charter of Preferred. It is contemplated that the single office of UIB will continue to be operated as a branch of Preferred. This notice is published pursuant to Section 18(c) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act. Any person wishing to comment on this application may file his or her comments in writing with the regional director of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation at its regional office, 25 Jessie Street at Ecker Square, San Francisco, California 94105-2780, not later than the 30th day following the date of the first required publication of the notice, which was August 14, 2015. The non-confidential portions of the application are on file in the regional office and are available for public inspection during regular business hours. Photocopies of the non-confidential portion of the application file will be made available upon request. Dated: August 14, 2015. Preferred Bank 601 S. Figueroa Street 29th Floor Los Angeles, CA 90017. United International Bank 41-60 Main Street Flushing, NY 11355.

**DISSOLUTION PROCEEDING** SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, QUEENS COUNTY, Petitioner, THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF THE VILLAGE OF JAMAICA ("Petitioner"), a religious corporation will move this Court for judicial dissolution. **Index No. 9264/2015.** TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF THE VILLAGE OF JAMAICA: you are hereby ordered to show cause before the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of Queens, 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, New York 11435, at Central Motion Part, Court Room 25 of this Court on the 16th day of September, 2015 at 2:15 p.m., or as soon thereafter as counsel can be heard, why an order of judgment should not be made: (i) finding that §18 of the New York State Religious Corporation Law is applicable to the dissolution of The First Baptist Church of the Village of Jamaica; (ii) dissolving The First Baptist Church of the Village of Jamaica in accordance with §18 of the Religious Corporations Law;

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(iii) directing payment of legal fees, publication costs and other expenses associated with this proceeding to dissolve The First Baptist Church of the Village of Jamaica; (iv) directing and authorizing the trustees to donate the remaining surplus assets for religious, charitable and benevolent purposes, in equal shares, to: (1) Wycliff Bible Translators, PO Box 628200, Orlando, FL 32862; (2) Family Radio, 290 Heegenberger Road, Oakland, CA 94621; (3) Calvary Baptist Church Foreign Missionary Ministry, 2981 Horseblock Road, Medford, NY 11763; (4) Fully Rely on God Christian Ministries, 1445 Municipal Parkway, Douglasville, GA 30134; (5) New York City Rescue Mission, 90 Lafayette Street, New York, NY 10013; (6) Diabetes Research Wellness Foundation, 5151 Wisconsin Avenue NW, Suite 420, Washington, D.C. 20016; (7) Martin Luther King Jr. Poor Peoples Church of Love d/b/a Hosea Feed the Hungry & Homeless, 1035 Donnelly Avenue SW, Atlanta, GA 30310; (8) American Cancer Society, 250 Williams Street NW, Atlanta, GA 30303; (9) Green Hope Services for Women, 435 East 119th Street, New York, NY 10035; (10) American Heart Association, 7272 Greenville Avenue, Dallas, TX 75231; (11) American National Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund, PO Box 37243, Washington, DC 20013; and (12) Alzheimer's Foundation of America, 322 Eighth Avenue, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10001; (v) authorizing the Trustee-petitioners, to take all steps necessary to assist in the dissolution and distribution of assets of The First Baptist Church of the Village of Jamaica; and (vi) granting such other relief as this Court deems just and proper. Papers, if any, shall be served so as to be received by Kevin M. Gallagher, Esq., Gallagher, P.C. DATED:..... Queens County, Supreme Court of New York, the 4th day of August, 2015. BY: The Honorable Allan B. Weiss STATEMENT OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING: This is a dissolution proceeding brought by the Trustees of the Petitioner, THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF THE VILLAGE OF JAMAICA (the "Petitioners"), pursuant to §18 of the Religious Corporations Law of the State of New York. The Petitioners allege that THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF THE VILLAGE OF JAMAICA is a religious corporation formed and existing pursuant to the Religious Corporations Law of the State of New York (the "CHURCH") and that: (i) presently there are no

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members of the CHURCH; (ii) the CHURCH does not have a place of worship; (iii) members of the CHURCH have not worshipped together in the past ten years; and (iv) it would be in furtherance of the public interest for the CHURCH to be dissolved and its surplus assets donated for religious, charitable and benevolent purposes, after payment of legal fees, publication costs and other expenses associated with this dissolution proceeding. Petitioners propose to dissolve and distribute the surplus assets remaining after costs of dissolution, to 501C(3) type entities as set forth in detail above. CONTACT PERSON: Kevin M. Gallagher, Esq., Gallagher, P.C., 260 Madison Avenue, 17th Floor, New York, NY (212) 687-1101.

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**SUMMONS**  
Index No. 701953/2015  
D/O/F: March 2, 2015  
Premises Address:  
204-09 45TH ROAD  
BAYSIDE, NY 11361  
SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK  
COUNTY OF QUEENS  
JAMES B. NUTTER AND COMPANY, Plaintiff,  
-against-  
JOHN DOE 1 THROUGH 50; JANE DOE 1 THROUGH 50,  
INTENDING TO BE THE UNKNOWN TRUSTEES OF THE LIVING TRUST OF SARAH E. LYMUS, THEIR SUCCESSORS IN INTEREST IF ANY OF THE AFORESAID DEFENDANTS BE DECEASED THEIR RESPECTIVE HEIRS AT LAW, NEXT OF KIN, AND SUCCESSORS IN INTEREST OF THE AFORESAID CLASSES OF PERSON, IF THEY OR ANY OF THEM BE DEAD, AND THEIR RESPECTIVE HUSBANDS, WIVES OR WIDOWS, IF ANY, ALL OF WHOM AND WHOSE NAMES AND PLACES OF RESIDENCE ARE UNKNOWN TO THE PLAINTIFF; NEW YORK CITY PARKING VIOLATIONS BUREAU; NEW YORK CITY TRANSIT ADJUDICATION BUREAU; NEW YORK CITY ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL BOARD; LONG ISLAND JEWISH MEDICAL CENTER; NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION AND FINANCE; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA - INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA O/B/O SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT; "JOHN DOES" and "JANE DOES",

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said names being fictitious, parties intended being possible tenants or occupants of premises and corporations, other entities or persons who have, claim, or may claim, a lien against, or other interest in, the premises, Defendant(s).  
TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS:  
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the Complaint in this action, and to serve a copy of your Answer, or, if the Complaint is not served with this Summons, to serve a Notice of Appearance on the Plaintiff's Attorneys within twenty (20) days after the service of this Summons, exclusive of the day of service, where service is made by delivery upon you personally within the State, or within thirty (30) days after completion of service where service is made in any other manner, and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the complaint.  
NOTICE  
YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME  
If you do not respond to this summons and complaint by serving a copy of the answer to the attorney for the mortgage company who filed this foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered and you can lose your home.  
Speak to an attorney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the summons and protect your property.  
Sending a payment to your mortgage company will not stop this foreclosure action.  
YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT.  
PLEASE BE AWARE:  
(1) that debt collectors, in accordance with the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692 et seq., are prohibited from engaging in abusive, deceptive, and unfair debt collection efforts, including, but not limited to:  
(i) the use or threat of violence;  
(ii) the use of obscene or profane language; and  
(iii) repeated phone calls made with the intent to annoy, abuse, or harass.  
(2) Debt collectors must also provide the following written notice:  
"If a creditor or debt collector receives a money judgment against you in court, state and federal

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laws may prevent the following types of income from being taken to pay the debt:  
1. Supplemental security income, (SSI);  
2. Social security;  
3. Public assistance (welfare);  
4. Spousal support, maintenance (alimony) or child support;  
5. Unemployment benefits;  
6. Disability benefits;  
7. Workers' compensation benefits;  
8. Public or private pensions;  
9. Veterans' benefits;  
10. Federal student loans, federal student grants, and federal work study funds; and  
11. Ninety percent of your wages or salary earned in the last sixty days."  
The following notice is intended only for those defendants who are owners of the premises sought to be foreclosed or who are liable upon the debt for which the mortgage stands as security.  
YOU ARE HEREBY PUT ON NOTICE THAT WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT, AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.  
The present amount of the debt as of the date of this summons: \$548,262.43, consisting of principal balance of \$544,778.64 plus interest of \$1,229.76, escrow/impound shortages or credits of \$0.00, late charges of \$0.00; MIP charges of \$194.03; Servicing Fees of \$35.00; Broker's Price Opinion, inspection and miscellaneous charges of \$0.00; surrogate search fee of \$21.73; attorney fee \$1,750.00 and title search \$275.00. Because of interest and other charges that may vary from day to day, the amount due on the day you pay may be greater. Hence, if you pay the amount shown above, an adjustment may be necessary after we receive the check, in which event we will inform you.  
The name of the creditor to whom the debt is owed: JAMES B. NUTTER AND COMPANY.  
Unless you dispute the validity of the debt, or any portion thereof, within thirty (30) days after receipt hereof, the debt will be assumed to be valid by Rosicki, Rosicki & Associates P.C.  
If you notify Rosicki, Rosicki & Associates P.C. in writing within thirty (30) days after your receipt hereof that the debt, or any portion thereof, is disputed, we will obtain verification of the debt or a copy of any judgment against you representing the debt and a copy of such verification or judgment will be mailed

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to you by Rosicki, Rosicki & Associates P.C.  
Upon your written request within 30 days after receipt of this notice, Rosicki, Rosicki & Associates P.C. will provide you with the name and address of the original creditor if different from the current creditor.  
Note: Your time to respond to the summons and complaint differs from your time to dispute the validity of the debt or to request the name and address of the original creditor. Although you have as few as 20 days to respond to the summons and complaint, depending on the manner of service, you still have 30 days from receipt of this summons to dispute the validity of the debt and to request the name and address of the original creditor.  
TO THE DEFENDANTS: The Plaintiff makes no personal claim against you in this action.  
TO THE DEFENDANTS: If you have obtained an order of discharge from the Bankruptcy court, which includes this debt, and you have not reaffirmed your liability for this debt, this law suit is not alleging that you have any personal liability for this debt and does not seek a money judgment against you. Even if a discharge has been obtained, this lawsuit to foreclose the mortgage will continue and we will seek a judgment authorizing the sale of the mortgaged premises.  
Dated: February 26, 2015  
Bijal K. Jani, Esq., ROSICKI, ROSICKI & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Attorneys for Plaintiff  
Main Office 51 E Bethpage Road Plainview, NY 11803 516-741-2585  
Help For Homeowners In Foreclosure  
New York State Law requires that we send you this notice about the foreclosure process. Please read it carefully. Mortgage foreclosure is a complex process. Some people may approach you about "saving" your home. You should be extremely careful about any such promises. The State encourages you to become informed about your options in foreclosure. There are government agencies, legal aid entities and other non-profit organizations that you may contact for information about foreclosure while you are working with your lender during this process. To locate an entity near you, you may call the toll-free helpline maintained by the New York State Banking Department at 1 - 8 7 7 - B A N K N Y S (1-877-226-5697) or visit the Department's website at

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www.banking.state.ny.us. The State does not guarantee the advice of these agencies.  
**SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS** Index No.: 701968/2015. Date of Filing: August 4, 2015. SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF QUEENS JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, Plaintiff, - against- MINGHUI ZHAI; CHENGTING ZONG, if living, or if either or all be dead, their wives, husbands, heirs-at-law, next of kin, distributees, executors, administrators, assignees, lienors and generally all persons having or claiming under, by or through said CHENGTING ZONG, by purchase, inheritance, lien or otherwise, of any right, title or interest in and to the premises described in the complaint herein, and the respective husbands, wives, widow or widowers of them, if any, all of whose names are unknown to plaintiff; NEW YORK CITY PARKING VIOLATIONS BUREAU; NEW YORK CITY TRANSIT ADJUDICATION BUREAU; NEW YORK CITY ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL BOARD; "JOHN DOES" and "JANE DOES", said names being fictitious, parties intended being possible tenants or occupants of premises, and corporations, other entities or persons who claim, or may claim, a lien against the premises. Defendants. TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS: **YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED** to answer the complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your answer, or, if the complaint is not served with this summons, to serve a Notice of Appearance on the Plaintiff's attorney(s) within twenty (20) days after the service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service, where service is made by delivery upon you personally within the State, or within thirty (30) days after completion of service where service is made in any other manner, and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the complaint. **NOTICE YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME.** If you do not respond to this summons and complaint by serving a copy of the answer on the attorney for the mortgage company who filed this foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered and you can lose your home. Speak to an attorney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the

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summons and protect your property. Sending a payment to your mortgage company will not stop this foreclosure action. **YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT.** YOU ARE HEREBY PUT ON NOTICE THAT WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT, AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS: The foregoing summons is served upon you by publication pursuant to an Order of the Honorable Leonard Livote of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, signed on July 28, 2015, and filed with supporting papers in the Office of the Clerk of the County of Queens, State of New York. The object of this action is to foreclose a mortgage upon the premises described below, executed by MINGHUI ZHAI, CHENGTING ZONG, to JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, NA bearing date August 8, 2007 and recorded in CRFN 2007000567397 in the County of Queens on November 14, 2007. Said premises being known as and by 78-58 220TH PLACE, OAKLAND GARDENS AKA BAYSIDE, NY 11364. Date: ...July 14, 2015 Batavia, New York Virginia C Grapensteter, Esq. ROSICKI, ROSICKI & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Attorneys for Plaintiff Batavia Office 26 Harvester Avenue Batavia, NY 14020 585.815.0288 Help For Homeowners In Foreclosure  
New York State Law requires that we send you this notice about the foreclosure process. Please read it carefully. Mortgage foreclosure is a complex process. Some people may approach you about "saving" your home. You should be extremely careful about any such promises. The State encourages you to become informed about your options in foreclosure. There are government agencies, legal aid entities and other non-profit organizations that you may contact for information about foreclosure while you are working with your lender during this process. To locate an entity near you, you may call the toll-free helpline maintained by the New York State Banking Department at 1-877-BANKNYS (1-877-226-5697) or visit the Department's website at www.banking.state.ny.us. The State does not guarantee the advice of these agencies.

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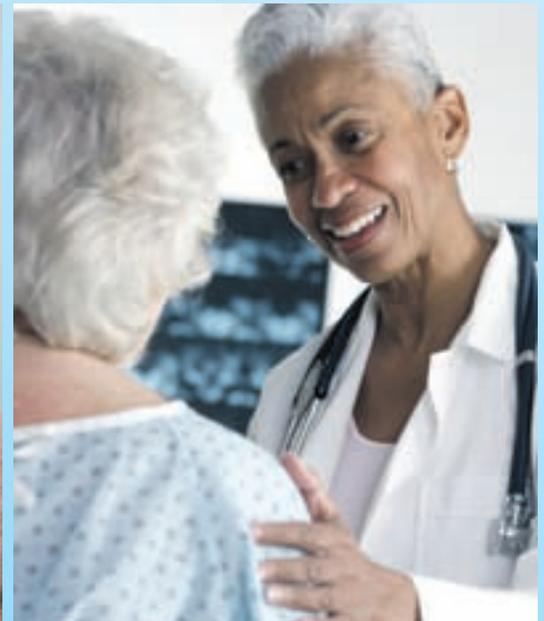
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